Friday, October 30, 2009 ★★ Vol. 24 / No. 214

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

No shortage of flowers, say growers

By Dolmar Carino
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Thanks to greenhouses, this province that was recently devastated by Tropical Storm "Pepeng" has lots of flowers to spare for All Saints' Day.

The farmers did not mind the expense—P200,000 to P300,000, depending on the area to be covered, according to Andy Celis, president of the Valley Cauliflower Growers Association—when they built the greenhouses.

The structures saved their crop from the onslaught of Pepeng and ensured that roses, calla lilies and other flowers would be available in time for big purchases by retailers and wholesalers.

NO SHORTAGE/A7

BLOOMS BOOM Notwithstanding the devastation wrought by aerial storms and proving that you can't keep tradition down, flowers make their glorious appearance at stores, shops and stands outside the cemeteries for the people to remember their dearly departed by. Up north, thanks to greenhouses, La Trinidad in Benguet delivers on its uncontested reputation as the Philippines' flower capital. [redacted]

'Santi' hits on All Saints'

Pagasa discourages travel to provinces

A MONSTER TYPHOON LOCALLY CALLED "SANTI"—a French nickname derived from a pious person—yesterday barreled toward Central Luzon, threatening to spoil All Saints' Day commemorations at the weekend, weathermen said.

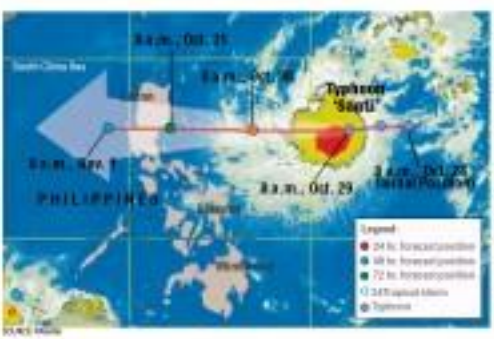
The fourth typhoon to wallop the Philippines in just over a month was packing more punch as it swirled toward the country with peak winds of 150 kilometers per hour gusting up to 185 kph.

"We have a 30-percent probability the typhoon might pass Metro Manila," said Prisco Nilo, director of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

"It would be better not to travel to the provinces because you might get stranded," he said.

At 4 p.m. yesterday, Pagasa located Santi (International name: Mirinae) in the Pacific 800 km east of Baler, Aurora, moving west at 20 kph. It was expected to smash into Aurora on Saturday.

SANTI/A2



SOURCE: PAGASA

Exorcist's tales: 'Hair on my arms stood on end'

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

WALKING TOWARD THE SQUAT BUNGALOW on a narrow street in Mandaluyong, the priest wondered why his friend had requested "a lot of holy water" for the blessing.

"I thought I was going to bless a big house. It was only a bungalow surrounded by tall trees," Fr. Armand Tenpi said, remembering that rainy afternoon in 1984.

EXORCIST'S A2

The man without a party says no to Gibo, Manny

By Michael Lim Ubac

A DAY AFTER HE BOLTED THE Nacionalista Party-People's Coalition (NPC), Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, a presidential hopeful, shut the door on a possible team-up with the administration's standard bearer Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., saying a "Gibo-Chiz" tandem was "impossible."

Escudero's colleagues in the Senate wondered whether his leaving the NPC was a gambit aimed at boosting his survey numbers before the filing of certificates of candidacy.

THE MAN/A10

Sotto: Problem is NPC has no substitute for Escudero

By Christian V. Esguerra and Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila and Rey M. Nasol
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE POLITICAL PARTY THAT lets Francis Escudero has abandoned may still end up supporting his candidacy in case he joins the May 2010 presidential election.

"There remains the option that we will continue supporting Chiz (Escudero's nickname) if he runs for president and we will still field a full NPC slate," former Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto

SOTTO/A10

Filipina killed in Kabul hailed as peace worker

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES YESTERDAY condemned a suicide attack by Taliban bombers on a guest house in the Afghan capital of Kabul that killed five United Nations workers, including a Filipino mother of two, and urged the world community to denounce "this latest terrorist outrage."

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) paid tribute to the Filipino fatality, Jessie G. Ibita, an election training coordinator with the UN Volunteers Program, as "a dedicated worker for peace."

A second Filipino volunteer, also a female, survived Wednesday's two-hour attack.

Besides Ibita, four other foreign UN staff members, three Afghan policemen and one civilian died in the dawn assault. Three Taliban suicide bombers were killed when they detonated their bombs inside

FILIPINA/A11

SO FAR FROM HOME Filipino workers show off their helmets and a bullet-proof vest at their sleeping quarters that can accommodate 200 people in Kandahar military base in southern Afghanistan. According to the Filipino laborers hired by US employers, they receive wages from US$538 to US$650 per month on a two-year contract that they have to complete before they can return home. Photo taken on Oct. 2, 2009.

Townmates want GMA to run, says Palace

By TJ Burgonio

HERE'S AN APPARENT SIGN OF things to come.

The nominators of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Lubao, Pampanga can't seem to get enough of her. After nine years as President, her townmates want her to seek a seat in Congress, according to her deputy spokesperson.

"I would say yes, especially in Lubao," Undersecretary Lorelei Fajardo said yesterday in response to a question on whether there was a clamor for Ms Arroyo to run for a seat in the House of Representatives.

The President has been making nearly weekly visits to Lubao and other parts of Pampanga to launch programs and inspect projects, fueling speculation that she was wooing her townmates to extend her hold on power.

After presiding over a meeting of the Cabinet and the National Disaster Coordinating Council on Tuesday in San Fernando City, she again visited Lubao.

Malacañang has downplayed these frequent forays to her

TOWNMATES/A11

WHAT'S INSIDE

Solon loses car to thieves **METRO** / A25
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UN calls for an end to US embargo on Cuba **WORLD** / A27
Gov't urged to lift oil price freeze **NEWS** / A2

Low ratings make it hard to get No. 2

By Christian V. Esguerra

WANTED: NO. 2—PREFERABLY a celebrity and crowd-pleaser.

The low rating of Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro so far in surveys of presidential aspirants is making it difficult for him to attract a running mate for next year's elections.

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said that with three weeks to go before the filing of certificates of candidacy, it was still "very unclear" who Teodoro's vice president would be.

LOW RATINGS/A11

HALLOWEEN PROTEST A masked worker of Triumph International, maker of women's undergarments, joins a protest rally for justice for rescinded employees.

Gov't urged to lift oil price freeze

By Amy R. Remo, Abigail L. Ho and Dona Pazolagan

THE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (MAP) yesterday called on the government to discard its order requiring oil companies to freeze fuel prices, saying this could "distort supply patterns."

For its part, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), saying that the importance of oil products to the economy must be considered, warned the government to be careful in implementing the price freeze order.

"While it is widely popular with a consuming public that is reeling from the effects of the global crisis and the recent typhoons, the order is based on an oversimplified but misleading view of the problem," MAP said in a statement.

Executive Order No. 839, issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo Friday last week, ordered all oil companies to bring down the prices of petroleum products to their Oct. 15 levels.

The order freezing oil prices will last while the state of calamity the President had declared "in the entire Luzon" is in effect. Ms Arroyo issued the order on Oct. 25 in the wake of the storm that devastated large swaths of Luzon, including Metro Manila.

PCCI, the country's biggest business group, said in a statement "EO 839 may be an exercise by government of its police powers in an emergency situation, but it is opposed to employ it judiciously sparingly and in a well-calibrated manner, and not to the longer."

Indispensable, oil is a strategic product that has great impact on our economic well-being and national security. The general welfare of our country and our people must not be put at risk by any miscalculation of the impact of EO 839 on the stability of our oil supply," it added.

But an cabinet Junior Secretary Agnes Devanadera dismissed warnings that a shortage in the oil supply would be the result of Malacañang's price freeze order and urged the consuming public and the media to report gasoline stations that ignore the order.

'Let's not make it hard'

"Let's not make it hard on ourselves, let's not get into misinformation. If there would be a supply shortage, the government has many options under the oil deregulation law. We can always go into inquiry, investigation or opening of books. We can take suggestions of supply and would number [prices]," she told reporters yesterday.

In opposing the order, MAP said, "It holds out the promise of lower prices but it does not properly inform the public of the dire consequences of arbitrary and sweeping price control."

It added that, from a legal point of view, the "constitutionality of the order is at best debatable."

"Experience has shown that price control distorts supply patterns. This order will not be an exception. The unavoidable emergence of a scrappage that is forced to sell at below cost is that it has to cut its business volume to minimize losses. As the entire chain inevitably gets scaled down, supply gradually disappears," MAP explained.

As a result, it said, buyers would be forced to turn to informal sources, paving the way for a black market to emerge.

"In the end, the objective of keeping prices low is defeated. Restoring economy in the shortest to then a protracted and painful process," it said.

PCCI said the government and the oil industry should "sit down and agree to work together, in the spirit of true partnership, to respond to the crisis of the twin disasters of Tropical Storms 'Ondoy' and 'Pepeng' while ensuring to protect and preserve the principles of free enterprise."

The group noted that while oil was considered a basic commodity, its price and supply levels were difficult to predict, as the product was almost entirely imported.

GMA orders food importation

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS authorized three agencies to undertake measures to stabilize the supply and prices of basic commodities, including chicken and pork, in the aftermath of the devastating storms that hit the country.

Ms Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 834 directing the National Food Authority, Food Terminal Inc. and Philippine International Trading Corp. to import commodities if some supply shortages.

She said the government has to ensure food security in the face of the dire economic situation, aggravated by the devastation wrought by Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng." This has "significantly lessened the underprivileged sector's access to basic food," she said.

"There is a need to address the basic needs of the less fortunate sectors, especially by those in the depressed areas, to assure their continuous access to basic food items," she added.

The President signed the order on Oct. 23, eight days before she issued Executive Order No. 839 imposing a temporary price cap on oil to forestall a wave of calamity-era oil to collect based on Oct. 15 prices.

Under EO 834, the NFA, PTI and PITC are authorized to include under their contingency coverage food items that they may deem necessary in order to stabilize their prices and supply, and to use their own funds and resources for this purpose.

The EO authorizes Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap to determine the reasonable volume of pork and chicken to be imported.

Amy R. Remo

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Removing lilies, installing rain gauges among rehab priorities

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By Nonoy M. Espinas

TWO RECONSTRUCTION BOARDS FORMED in the aftermath of Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" have identified four projects for immediate implementation while results of a post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) are awaiting.

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said in a statement that the Special Interagency Public Reconstruction Commission and the private sector's Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF) found the priority projects as the removal of water lilies that clog waterways, especially Laguna de Bay; putting up rainwater gauges for early warning; awareness of flood victims with topographical; and repair of damaged schools and classroom fixtures.

Teves, who chairs the commission, said the projects would require coordination between and funding from both sectors, adding that the two bodies were in talks with the agencies and private sector entities concerned.

"For the clearing of the water lilies, the PDRF plans to remove and keep them to farm and compost sites of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) in Laguna," he said.

He said the PDRF intended to work with the Laguna Lake Development Authority and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, as well as the local government units concerned, regarding the aquatic plants.

The PDRF was consulting with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) and National Disaster Coordinating Council on the installation of the rain gauges.

PDRF chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said the group wanted "some quick and early wins" and the rain gauges were intended to be installed in the hill sites of Smart Communications Inc., which would power the gauges and transmit the data instantaneously to Pagasa.

Pangilinan is chair of Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co. (PLDT), the parent firm of Smart.

The businessman said the PBSP was committed to working with the Department of Health in the treatment of leptospirosis patients and with the Department of Education in the rehabilitation and repair of schools and classrooms.

Pangilinan said the PDRF had been in continuous meetings with scientists and environmental experts, and was set to move on a number of immediate projects while awaiting a reconstruction master plan that the commission and the foundation were currently drafting.

Teves said the preliminary report on the PDNA—being conducted by government agencies with help from international donors—was expected by early November.

He said the report would be available in time for the informal meeting between the commission and the PDRF, and with multilateral donors that would be tapped for rebuilding funds.

Last week, Teves said that while there was no definite figure on how much was needed for the reconstruction effort, the latest figure on the damage from the twin storms was estimated at P30 billion.

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Envoy cites space-based storm aid to RP

By Jerome Aning

IN THE AFTERMATH OF TROPICAL Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," the Philippines' ambassador to the United Nations underscored to the world body the important role space-based technology can play in helping countries prepare effective responses to calamities.

Speaking before the 4th committee of the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly, Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN Hilario Davide Jr. said the country benefited from space-based technology during the back-to-back storms that hit the country recently.

Davide made the statement on the agenda of a meeting on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

He also expressed the Philippines' appreciation of the "valuable" assistance it received when the storms were battering the country from the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) under the Vienna-based UN Office for Outer Space (Unoosa).

"The Philippines comes with satisfaction the increase in the availability of space-based information to support disaster management and emergency response activities," Davide said.

The country, he added, had a "very high practical usage" of UN-Spider programs as it was struck by an average 20 typhoons annually.

"The recent onslaught and damage wrought by Ondoy and Pepeng in the Asia-Pacific region allowed the Philippines to experience the usefulness and effectiveness of satellite imagery in tracking the movements of these massive typhoons," Davide said.

He said the satellite imagery of the floods in Metro Manila and northern and Central Luzon were "of great use" to the domestic agencies involved in planning for future disaster mitigation and response, particularly to high-risk areas.

"Many of the causes and impacts of natural disasters are observable in real-time from space by earth observing systems," he noted.

"When efficiently combined with modern information distribution methods, such data can be sent rapidly to affected communities and local emergency agencies as early warnings before the disaster occurs or as post-disaster maps to assist in recovery operations," he said.

During Ondoy's onslaught, Davide said UN-Spider made a special effort to consolidate satellite data on the storm and its impact, including post-disaster imagery to support the response effort in the Philippines. It also placed an officer on duty 24 hours a day.

UN-Spider facilitated and sought the activation of international mechanisms and satellites to monitor the storms.

It also connected other satellite providers, sourced funds for modern satellite imagery and compiled, uploaded and shared the satellite information with the Philippines and other users.

Davide said the Philippines was hoping to join the ranks of donor countries that had signed cooperation agreements with Unoosa to allow the establishment of a UN-Spider Office in Manila by June 2010.

Hold makeup classes until March—DepEd

PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN ORDERED to hold makeup classes on Saturdays for the next five months—or until March if need be—to make up for lost school days due to Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

But the typhoon-hardest would not affect the Christmas break, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said in a directive dated Oct. 22 and posted on the Department of Education website.

In case makeup classes until December are not enough, classes could also be held on "succeeding Saturdays in March, 2010," Lapus said.

"Major calamities affecting the country, particularly Ondoy and Pepeng, which hit Luzon regions, had caused the suspension of classes for many days," Lapus said.

To remember with existing policy, schools concerned would have to hold makeup classes to compensate for the lost school days."

Lapus said schools could also conduct "modularized instruction" which would allow students to do their studies at home to make up for the lost class hours.

The DepEd's Modified In-School/Out-of-School Approach allows school children who are unable to attend school to study their lessons through modules that are parallel to lessons taught in school, he said. Philip C. Tubeo

Repair of dikes in C Luzon urged

A PUBLIC WORKS OFFICIAL YESTERDAY urged the immediate repair of dikes in Central Luzon that were caused by typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng to prevent further flooding in the region.

Philip Mirasol, Lamog River Basin Flood Control Project director, said earth dikes located in Urdaneta, Rosales, San Manuel, Villasis and other Pangasinan towns should be rehabilitated quickly to ensure that they would be strong enough to withstand future storms.

Mirasol said the rehabilitation could cost the government P90 million.

"The sudden release of waters caused volumes of it to pass over the top of the earth dikes, creating what are call an overtop effect. Overtopping results to the scouring of the top of the dikes, rendering them ineffective to control floodwaters," he said.

"One main typhoon like 'Pepeng' and these dikes will break up, inundating the low-lying municipalities of Pangasinan. We need to immediately restore and repair them," he said. Kristine L. Alave

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, October 30, 2009
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Or: Feast of Blessed Alphonsus Rodriguez, Religious
First Reading: Rom 8:1-11

I tell you sincerely in Christ, and my conscience knows me in the Holy Spirit that I am not lying: I have great sadness and constant anguish for the heart. I would even desire that I myself suffer the curse of being cut off from Christ, instead of my brothers, I mean my own people, my kin. They are Israelites whom God adopted, and to them were the Glory, Christ and the covenants, the Law, the worship and the promises of God. They are descendants of the Patriarchs and from them sent Christ was born, he who as God is above all for ever. Blessed be he forever and ever. Amen!

Gospel: Lk 14:1-6

One Sabbath time I had gone to eat a meal in the house of a leading Pharisee, and he was carefully watched. In front of him was a man suffering from dropsy. So Jesus asked the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" But no one answered. Jesus then took the man, healed him and sent him away. And he addressed them, "If your lamb or your ox falls into a well on a Sabbath day, who among you doesn't hurry to pull it out?" And they could not answer.

Commentary:

It is much too easy to think of religion as being about us, instead of being about God. It is much too easy to do the merciful work with our eyes, instead of God's heart. It is much too easy to focus on our priorities, instead of God's priorities. It is much too easy to impose our priorities on God's priorities and, thereby, to consider our priorities to be God's priorities.

Here is a simple point: a correct understanding of God's priorities needs to be a strong guide for other people. The man in question, who belongs to God, recognizes God's great concern for the suffering of his fellow human people. God's top priority for His people is their humble compassion. If God, in humble compassion, could give His only Son to the suffering people of the World, then we, who belong to God, can reach out to each other in humble compassion. We help people to see God's kindness through our kindness. It never violates God's priorities when we do good. We can always find opportunities to show compassion. In ways we cannot imagine. We represent God well, even in the hardest circumstances, when we are prepared to do good, just because we believe in God.

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Focus on trade blocs, not who should be leader of Apec–FVR

By Jeremaiah Opinion

DISTEAD OF RICHARDING ONE WHICH country should be the driving force in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, Apec leaders should focus on developing smaller trade blocs to accelerate its aim of a free trade area in the Pacific Rim, according to former President Fidel Ramos.

"We should not be talking about the driving force. Rather, let's develop clusters of double partners," said Ramos as a press briefing on his arrival from China.

Ramos said Apec, which groups 21 "economies" fronting the Pacific Ocean, should stick to its original goal of free trade or trade liberalization.

Economies style "borderless" arrangements such as the free migration of labor and economic unions would be difficult considering that Apec member states are not contiguous and are separated by the vast Pacific Ocean, he said.

Ramos was reacting to reports that prospects for regional economic integration in the Apec region were mixed to debates over who should be the "driving force," or leading country in the system, with Apec members lining up behind either the United States or Japan.

Apec heads of state and governments will be meeting for the second leaders' summit from Sun. Nov. 18 in Singapore.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said the Apec leaders, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, would be discussing, among others, topics, the acceleration of regional economic integration and the multilateral trading system for the 20-year-old organization.

Japan, which will be chairing Apec next year, has forwarded its proposal for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia.

India also has a separate proposal for an Asian Economic Community.

The plans overlap with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (Asean) plans for its own economic integration and free trade zone.

The so-called "Asean plus Three" dialogue partnership includes the 10 Asean members, plus China, Japan and South Korea.

Asean has also signed a few trade agreements with these countries.

A few years ago, several Southeast Asian states also grouped with South Pacific and South American countries to form the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement, which also has trade liberalization aims.

Ramos said creating more blocs instead of talking about the driving force would help spur the economies of the individual Apec members.

"I tend to have a proposal for an association of North Asian countries, which would include China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia and Russia. There's not even an intergovernmental or even environmental linkage there now to forge an economic entity in the private sector," he said.

He said he also has his idea of a Central East Asia "growth polygon," composed of the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Guam, Marianas and several southern Chinese provinces.

Another cluster created under his term, the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area (Bimp-Eaga), resulted in mutual benefits ranging from security, economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, interfaith exchanges and tourism, Ramos said.

"There are no driving forces in these clusters. We just countered all ascribe and threw it to the leaders to that they could make decisions. And then as for everyone be a driving force. This is how we ignored Asean to work," he said.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO witnesses the exchange of documents between Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi (left) and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo following the signing of two agreements to boost bilateral ties and improve consular relations between the Philippines and China.

RP, China ink 2 agreements boosting ties despite conflict

By Jeremaiah Opinion

THE PHILIPPINES AND CHINA signed two agreements yesterday to boost bilateral ties and improve consular relations, despite disagreements on issues such as the disputed Spratly islands.

One agreement outlines areas in which the two countries intend to work more closely together over the next five years, such as politics, trade, investments, finance, agriculture, food safety, defense and sustainable development.

The agreements were signed by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The agreements—the Philippines-China Joint Action Plans for Strategic Cooperation (JAP) and the Philippines-China Consular Agreement—were initialed by Mr. Arroyo and Chinese President Hu Jintao when the latter visited the Philippines in 2005.

The JAP maps out the general strategic direction of bilateral cooperation in the next five years. The areas of cooperation range from trade and investment to law enforcement and political matters.

"China is a strategic partner and we are looking forward, under the strategic cooperation plan, to have more activities between the two countries," Romulo said, but no specific details about the strategic cooperation agreement were released.

The consular agreement is aimed at protecting Filipino workers in China and is the first such deal the Philippines has negotiated with another country, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Long-standing concerns

"The agreement addresses long-standing concerns of the Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in China with regard to the provision of assistance to nationals ... such as notifications of arrest and detention of Filipino nationals, repatriation and settlement of disputes," the DFA said.

Despite growing economic ties, relations between the Philippines and China have been marred by conflicting territorial claims over such areas in the Spratly group of islands in the South China Sea.

Chinese officials have said a Philippine law passed last year that spelled out the Philippines' claims to parts of the Spratlys had harmed bilateral relations.

Yang and Romulo also discussed activities to mark the 30th anniversary of Philippine-Chinese diplomatic ties in 2010.

Prior Palace visitors

Yang called on 8th Arroyo in Malacañang, during which he reiterated how he said his wife had stayed overnight at the Palace in 1978 when they were young foreign service officers acting as interpreters for Chinese Vice Premier Li Xiannian who was visiting Manila at the time.

After the conclusion of the bilateral talks, the President personally took Yang on a tour Malacañang. The Chinese official later visited Rizal Shrine in Fort Santiago.

On Yang's arrival Wednesday night, Romulo hosted a dinner at Sir Loins at the Palace. The guests included Vice President Noli de Castro, Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Philippine Ambassador to China Sonia Consuelo Injap and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, among others.

Yang, 55, was China's ambassador to the United States from 2001 up to 2005, when he was appointed vice minister of foreign affairs. He was named foreign minister in 2007. With an AFP report

Lapus opts for DepEd over Senate

THE ADMINISTRATION PARTY'S SHORTlist of Senate candidates just got shorter.

On the advice of his family, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said he had decided not to pursue his plans to run for the Senate in 2010, a Department of Education (DepEd) official said yesterday.

Lapus has decided instead to focus on improving the public school system during the remaining months of the Arroyo administration, according to Reuben's Tondo, public information office chief of the DepEd.

"The secretary said that even if his name was frequently mentioned in the list of possible senatorial candidates, he has chosen not to run based on the advice of his family," Tondo said.

"He said he will double his efforts in performing his job at [the] DepEd to address the needs of our students and our teachers," he added.

Lapus could not be contacted through his cell phone and Tondo could not give more details about the secretary's decision.

Lapus is a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) whose presumptive presidential standard-bearer, Sen. Francis Escudero, announced on Tuesday that he was leaving the party.

The relentless secretary earlier said that he was thinking of leaving for the Senate, repeatedly after he rated high in surveys of possible senatorial candidates from the Cabinet.

The DepEd has received consistently high public job performance ratings during Lapus' term and Lapus himself has also ranked high in public awareness polls.

Lapus, a cousin of Liberal Party standard-bearer Sen. Benigno Aquino III, was frequently mentioned as a possible senatorial candidate of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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More Filipinos getting diabetes; doctors alarmed, blame lifestyle

By Cleve Paolo Bongar

A SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE AND AN unhealthy diet have contributed to the rise in diabetes patients in the country, with as many as 1.4 million Filipino adults (aged 20 and above) acquiring the disease in the last five years.

Doctors are also alarmed that those with acquired diabetes are getting younger.

Data presented by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) in its Diabetes Atlas for 2000 showed the number of Filipino adults with Type 2 or acquired diabetes at 1.4 million out of a 53-million adult population, with 4.9 million more at border line cases.

"The numbers are increasing at an alarming rate," said Dr. Tessany Ty Willing, president and chair of Diabetes Philippines. He said the estimate is that in the next 20 years, more than half of the adult population worldwide would be diabetic.

Even high school students

"Type 2 diabetes usually develops among the middle-aged group between 40 to 50 years old. Now even high school students have Type 2 diabetes, which was very rare before," he said.

He blamed little physical activity among the young, coupled with a high calorie or fatified diet. Even among the poor, there is malnutrition related. The better because of the food they take than skimpy the pancreas, Willing said.

Diabetes is a chronic disease where the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or where the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.

Kidney disease is the leading complication of diabetes, followed by heart disease, stroke, or nerve diseases that can lead to the amputation of lower limbs and eye disease.

The warning signs include frequent urination, excessive thirst, increased hunger, weight loss, tiredness, lack of interest and concentration, wanting and stomach pain (often mistaken for flu), tingling sensation or numbness in the hands or feet. Other signs include blurred vision, frequent infections and slow-healing wounds.

Type 1 diabetes is most commonly diagnosed in children and young adults who usually get it from a viral infection like the common cold. With Type 2 diabetes, the most common type of diabetes, one cannot use the insulin that they produce. The patient needs to take regular medicines and insulin shots, has to watch his diet and exercise regularly.

World Diabetes Day

With about 285 million adults diabetes worldwide, the United Nations has mandated observance of World Diabetes Day on Nov. 14, with this year's theme, "Understand Diabetes and Take Control."

Willing said Type 2 diabetes can be prevented by maintaining a healthy weight and being physically active. Regular walking for at least 30 minutes per day has been shown to reduce the risk of Type 2 diabetes by 30 to 40 percent.

According to IDF data, the latest prevalence rate for diabetes in the country is 6.7 percent of the population, or 3.4 million out of an adult population of 51 million.

The prevalence rate for impaired glucose tolerance is higher at 9.6 percent, or 4.8 million persons at risk of developing diabetes.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 25 ISSUE, a front-page story—"$90K on bid to enhance Ekad skull: No way, Jose"—misstated that the only part of national hero Jose Rizal's body that is not buried under the Luneta monument is his backbone. Only a piece of Rizal's backbone was not interred and is now on display at Fort Santiago.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge, Makati City, fax (632) 897-07 02 94, e-mail address: dayedesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address: inquirer@inquirer.com.ph or the Ass. Editor-in-Chief, Ann Rufino. The phone number is 897-8000 local 300.

HUNG THE WORD: A vendor waits on her stall of wreaths for early visitors to Manila South Cemetery

No shortage of flowers, say growers

From page A1

This week, it was the flower section of the public market in this capital town that stayed busy, traffic, farmers and traders did brisk business despite warnings from that there would be a short supply due to Peyong's impact.

Sales have risen since Monday as flower deliveries days coming, prevailing relief to traders who feared boosting their supply concerns when the typhoon damaged their to gardens.

Extra protection for blooms

Peyong's strong rains destroyed P9.67 million worth of flowers and P6.81 million worth of plastic nets and greenhouses, or, according to La Trinidad's agriculture office.

But despite the damage, the flowers

Cebu said the greenhouses and plastic nets cushioned collapsed. But those gave the flowers extra protection from the wind and rain that accompanied Peyong.

"There are many flowers now for us but a lot to remember our loved ones by on Nov. 1," Cebu said.

Yesterday, three days before Filipinos traditionally remember their dead, cuts lilies sold for P20 a bundle; roses P25-P30 a bundle; roses P200 to P250 a bundle; Malaysian mums P120 a dozen; mokara, mini P60 a dozen, chrysanthemums P80 a dozen and gladioli P25 a dozen.

Montano Gaspid, president of the La Trinidad Cutflowers Trading Post Association, said the group's more than 30 members were afraid they would ruin nothing the season after Peyong.

"The peak demand for roses is usually from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1. This is the time we would earn a lot. But we were worried that the typhoon took many all our chances," he said.

Gaspid said the flowers had to be harvested from Oct. 21 to 25 to allow for time for trimming and packing.

'Our casters'

Not everyone is happy, however.

Farmer Nilda Tavio said her greenhouse in Benguet Shilan was leveled by Peyong.

She said she was almost reduced to tears when she discovered that she had no flowers to harvest.

Said another farmer: "Kasi kargon nalam a garden na ni cabeng (Our flowers perform are now like stores)."

Municipal agriculture officer Felicitas Tabora earlier shared the bleak forecast of challenge of flowers.

She said most of the plants were in their flowering stage when the rains fell.

But as it turned out, many flower farms were saved by the greenhouses.

Said Cebu: "With the changes in weather, the greenhouses served as our saviors. They may have been destroyed but they protected our flowers from being blown away."

Adapting technology

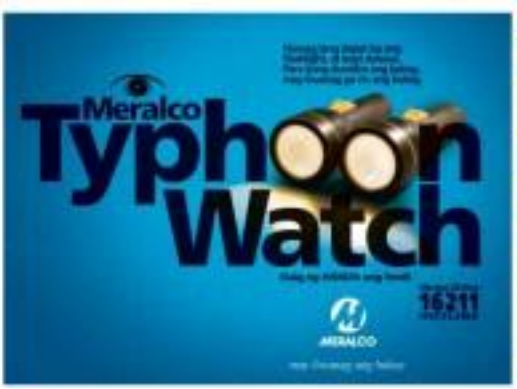
In earlier times, flowers were planted like vegetables, open to the elements.

But the flower farmers had to adapt and use the available technology, Cebu said.

He said the farmers did not want to use greenhouses at first, but eventually learned that these structures served to protect flowers not only from wind and rain but also from pests.

At first, the farmers had no option but to build their own greenhouses. The more can a lot of them have costs, Cebu said.

La Trinidad remains the flower capital of the Philippines. In 2008, the town's 3,402 farmers produced 39.96 million dozen cut flowers.



EAGLE POWER A Philippine eagle draws off its plumage in a cage at the Philippine Eagle Conservation Center in Malagos, Davao City. ROMEO GACAD

SA PAG-LAGOM Catanduanes President Aurora sends off truckloads of relief goods on Thursday at the Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City. Dubbed "Sama-samang Pagmimisa Caravan," the relief goods—rubber boots, raincoats, blankets, canned goods, rice and bottled water—are bound for the provinces of Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon, Masbate, Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur, which were battered by Typhoon "Reming" (international name: Durian) last week. Reming left at least 414 people dead and 64 others missing. Some 1.2 million people were displaced by the typhoon, which also damaged or destroyed 200,000 houses. Reming was the strongest typhoon to hit the country in 2006. It was also the deadliest typhoon to hit the country since Typhoon "Milenyo" (international name: Xangsane) killed 1,399 people in September 2006. Reming was the 20th typhoon to hit the country this year. Another typhoon, "Pepeng" (international name: Durian), is expected to hit the country on Saturday. ROBERT VITUG

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'Santi' hits on All Saints'

Front page A1

"There is a possibility that typhoon would strengthen more to still hit more before it hits land. The strength would be enough to cause some damage," Ildis said. "We also expect it would bring a lot of rain."

Troops on alert

Over 3,000 troops in Metro Manila were placed on "blue alert"—on call 24 hours in case of emergency in Metro Manila.

Parts of the metropolis were still under some after Tropical Storm "Dindy" dumped a record rainfall on Sept. 30 and triggered widespread flooding.

Dindy and Typhoon "Pepeng" that came a week later left a combined death toll of nearly 1,000. Typhoon "Reming" last week drenched southern Luzon, but washed northward toward Japan before it could do damage.

Ildis said sea travel should be good until this morning and air travel until the afternoon. But he warned "it might be dangerous" for commuters to travel by road except to provinces south of Metro Manila.

In its weather update yesterday Pagasa had storm signal No. 2 over Polillo Islands and Signal No. 1 over Batanes, Cagayan, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Bataan, Quezon, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte and Catanduanes.

Rescue teams deployed

Capt. Michael Aquino, spokesperson of the Northern Capitol Region Command, said fully equipped rescue units had been deployed in flood-prone areas of Metro Manila.

Lt. Col. Eduardo Torres Jr., of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, also said that medical teams had been alerted.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and other government agencies have been directed to reinforce police in Metro Manila discouraging traffic and controlling crowd in cemeteries.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. on Wednesday advised residents on Santi's path to forego visiting the cemetery on All Saints' Day to avoid getting trapped by possible floodwaters.

Prepositioning relief goods

Also yesterday, the government dispatched trucks loaded with food packs to Luzon provinces that are in the path of the approaching typhoon.

President Macapagal-Arroyo saw off the trucks laden with food and other provisions on the Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City at around 9 a.m.

"The main objective is to prepositions these relief goods in preparation for Typhoon Santi," Undersecretary Lorelei Fajardo, deputy presidential spokesperson, said in a briefing.

The drop off points are Pangasinan for Region 1; Pampanga, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac for Region 3; Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon for Region 4-A; and Camarines Norte and Sur, Sorsogon, Albay and Catanduanes for Region 5.

"We announced in Quiapo and Pepeng that there were areas in some remote barangays that were difficult to reach because there were landslides. So this is what we want to avoid, that's why we are prepositioning these goods," Fajardo said.

The supplies consisted of food packs, potable water, mats, blankets and clothing. With reports from Nicole Pepe, Marilyn R. Ely, TJ Burgonio, Rino T. Olivenares, and Gabriel Lavilles, Inquirer Northern Luzon

need a job?

TOP YOUNG ARTISTS Inquirer Lifestyle and Nokia held the 18 Young Artists Awards night Wednesday at the Gallery at Greenbelt 5, as part of this year's Inquirer Lifestyle series. The artists are (from left, behind) Raymond Lagunzad, Mark Ramos Salicain III, Lindsey Jason Lee, Kiel Dubon, Klaarpaz de Guia, Patricia del Rosario, Dina Pearl Gozlo, Chiendeyn Uy and Rene Calalayan. In front, from left, are Inquirer Lifestyle editor Leo Zulueta, Inquirer senior VP for sales and marketing Felipa Olaivar, Inquirer president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, Nokia marketing head Sandeep Khanna, Nokia marketing manager Mitch Lo and Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot. Not in photo is artist Winner Jimalon. LEO ZULUETA

Halloween's fine, but don't forget the dead–prelate

ALL HALLOWEEN PARTY should not get in the way of the proper observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, the Church has reminded its members.

Acts archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), urged Catholics to attend Mass on Halloween parties on Oct. 31 that they forget to pray for the saints and the dead.

"Sometimes they are already tired from attending a Halloween party the whole day that come Nov. 1 and 2, the days when they are supposed to be praying, they are at home resting or sleeping. They have forgotten to pray," Lagdameo said in a broadcast sent to the Church-run Radio Veritas on Thursday. "I hope they won't forget the real intention behind the observance and that is to pray for the saints and the dead," the bishop said.

Lagdameo said Halloween was not part of Church tradition.

The Church-backed day of All Saints' [illegible] on Nov. 1—followed by All Souls' Day on Nov. 2—and is a holy day of obligation in the Catholic Church.

Halloween, a hugely secular celebration on Oct. 31, has its roots in the Celtic festival Samhain, roughly meaning "summer's end" in Old Irish, celebrated mainly in Ireland and Scotland.

Halloween activities include trick-or-treating, attending costume parties, ghost hunts, watching haunted attractions, parades, telling scary stories, and watching horror films.

"I will not say that parents should stop exposing their children to Halloween parties. We only ask the people not to forget the prayers [on] the occasion which is to pray for the saints and our dead," Lagdameo said.

He urged Catholics to visit the tombs of their departed loved ones if they can, "although that is not what is important. What is important is that we remember and pray for our dead."

"Time will come that it is going to be us who will be prayed for by the living," he said.

Lagdameo said those who are unable to visit the cemeteries should stay home and pray not only for their departed but for all the dead "hopefully those who have been forgotten and are no longer prayed for."

Honor dead by keeping cemeteries clean–Atienza

By Alexis Pays

HONOR THE DEAD BY KEEPing their surroundings clean.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has appealed to the public who would be going to cemeteries on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day to refrain from spreading trash around as they pay homage to their dear departed.

"By way of honoring the dead and preserving life, let us not bring disposable plastic and Styrofoam to cemeteries. Let this occasion be the start of reducing and eliminating plastic from our households and communities," Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said in a statement yesterday.

Atienza reminded the public that garbage contributed greatly to the massive flooding that submerged parts of Metro Manila and nearby provinces when Tropical Storm "Ondoy" hit the country on Sept. 26.

"With the unpredictable weather, we must make sure that not only our cemeteries but also our streets, roads, esteros, rivers and other waterways are developed of garbage to prevent the ugly eventuality," he said.

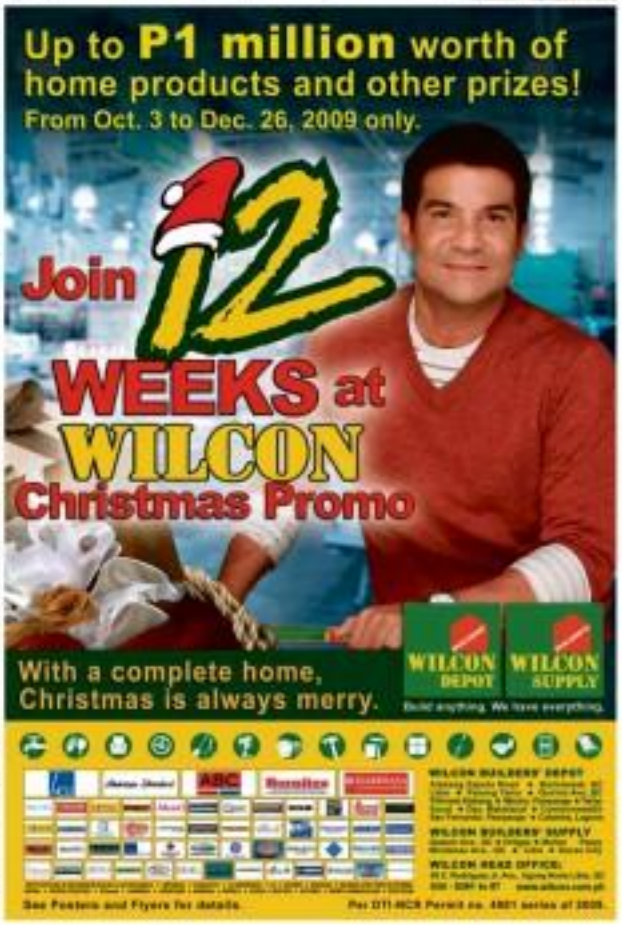
Atienza also called on the officials of public and private cemeteries to utilize products of food and other commodities to provide fresh hope for the public.

He also gave tips for an environment-friendly commemoration, such as:

- Bring your own trash bags and recycle if feasible. Segregate biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. Collect unused readily wax for reuse or sale.
- Instead of leaving behind leftover food, bring it home. Leftover food can be turned into compost with effective biodegradable agents. Reuse or recycle nonbiodegradable discards that may have further use.
- Ensure that stone/ceramic are in good condition to avoid breakdowns that could lead to traffic jams that cannot immediately be cleared and more pollutants to be released into the atmosphere to harm a corpse[illegible] others.

Atienza said similar shrewd efforts should complement observance of the Undas, only 720 tons or 10.74 percent are either recycled or composted. The rest find their way into rivers, creeks, esteros or are dumped to create hills and eyesores.

"It's high time we changed our attitude and become socially responsible in the proper disposal of the garbage that we generate," Atienza said.



The man without a party says no to Gibo, Manny

Front page A1

ID'ation of candidacy on Nov. 20.

His decision to abandon the NPC left the party without a standard-bearer.

He also rejected a team-up with Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar, who, like Escudero, is still looking for a running mate.

"I will never jump ship and join the administration, particularly because its head is trailing Bimbol. I honor and respect Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, but it seems impossible for that team-up to happen," Escudero told reporters in a radio interview.

Asked about a tandem with Villar of the Nacionalista Party, Escudero said: "I already commented on that." He did not elaborate.

Escudero had already rejected a team-up with Villar in the wake of an earlier survey by Social Weather Stations' which showed a likely win for a Villar-Escudero tandem if presidential elections were held at the time.

"Impossible. It will never happen. I intend for good governance," Escudero, the 39-year-old senator who was not ineligible to run for president, said in a press statement on Sept. 5.

Escudero turned 40 on Dec. 12, the minimum required age for those seeking the presidency.

C-5 controversy

"Even what I have seen and read about the allegations raised in the C-5 controversy, it seems to be just the tip of the iceberg. I cannot in good conscience run with or under him," he said.

Villar, a former Senate president, is facing an ethics probe by the Senate committee of the whole for the alleged diversion of the C-5 road project to benefit Villar's real estate company, a charge vehemently denied by the latter.

Escudero's statements yesterday were a far cry from his answers when he was interviewed by ABS-CBN's "Bandila" on Wednesday.

All possible

Asked about the possibility of becoming the running mate of Villar, Escudero said: "All possibilities are possible, but I subscribe a little more to..."

Teaming up with former President Joseph Estrada of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino may not be possible, either.

Estrada announced on Oct. 21 that Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay would be his running mate.

"They have exemplary team-up already," Escudero said when asked if he was willing to slide down to be Estrada's running mate.

GOODBYE TO ALL THAT Ilan sees Senate colleagues unjustly vilify him as Escudero's fans, dedicated troops on board his sorry sailing? Is it a gamble? He himself says he did it on principle.

Escudero repeated his own party stance on Wednesday with his dramatic announcement at the Luneta Club/Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, that he was resigning from the NPC, the party he helped found in 1991 with Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Escudero resigned his membership in the NPC, the party founded by former Senator Eduardo "Bunding" Cojuangco Jr.

"I am leaving my party because I believe that I can fulfill that role than I am bound today in connection with the coming elections... not as a member of any party or a component of any person, but as half me," Escudero had announced at a hastily-called press conference.

The announcement came a day after Escudero apparently failed to convince Cojuangco, NPC chair emeritus and chair of Sen. Miguel Coja, to bankroll his presidential candidacy.

The lawmaker from Sorsogon had declared the announcement of his plans for the 2010 elections, asking his supporters to give him time to decide what to do next.

Last-ditch effort

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. asked if it was the young senator's last-ditch effort to shore up his popularity ratings, which plummeted in the last survey of the Social Weather Stations.

"If what I heard is correct that he left NPC because of money, it's a bad gamble," Pimentel said in a text message.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan expressed unconcerned that Escudero suddenly saw the wisdom of running as an independent candidate in a three-cornered fight.

He said Escudero was not known to be an advocate of a "third force," a move Pangilinan advocated in the 2007 elections to encourage opposition senatorial candidates to form a group unlinked to any with either the opposition or the administration.

Pangilinan said Escudero's decision to leave the NPC had stirred more questions than answers. "The rumors as to the real reason aren't helping his bid," he said. "Is it a gamble?"

Not about money

In several radio and TV interviews, since he resigned from the NPC, Escudero said money was not a factor for leaving the NPC.

He had to make this clarification because in all the interviews, he was repeatedly asked about reports that he had a rift with Cojuangco, who had refused to bankroll his presidential bid.

"The subject of financing was never discussed, nor was it ever an issue unless the party life resignation was a matter of principles and convictions," Escudero said.

He said he had an right to demand something which did not belong to him in the first place.

But he added, "I accept the reality that I'm not a decorative (landowner) or billionaire."

Escudero clarified that he resigned because as a presidential candidate he should not be tied down to a political party.

"I never prioritized money in my career. I live in a simple house with my simple family. I didn't dream of having money when I went into public service," he said.

VILLAR

TEODORO

Sotto: Problem is NPC has no substitute for Escudero

Front page A1

ID, an NPC member told the Inquirer yesterday. He was present in the emergency meeting of officials of the Nationalist People's Coalition called shortly after Escudero, bitter over the party's perceived standoff-hearted encounter, he was out of there.

Some say the party may link with its substitute for Escudero as presidential candidate even as it was also proposing a full slate ticket for the national and local elections.

"So NPC member has signified his intention to run for president. That's the problem," he said.

Some, also the chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board, acknowledged that Escudero's departure from the NPC "deserved" some members.

"I may [still] be a chairman, but it's a real problem because you suddenly lose a presidential candidate," he said.

Partidyan Sipi, Rodis Gobin said Escudero's announcement that he would not accept a political party should be inviting pro-shoot shocked him to consider his party's ties, a coalition that may not be ideal in Philippine politics.

Like whale shark's fate

Gobin also wondered how Escudero would fare after he left the NPC, which he belonged for over a decade, as he noted the death of a whale shark, which he said met its tragic fate when it was out of its natural habitat in foreign, Escudero's home province.

Palawan supporters of Escudero's presidential bid said who were planning to affiliate themselves with the NPC wanted to know what was next for them.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis "Lito" Villafuerte, who has left the administration party and has backed Escudero, said the group would meet with key leaders of the NPC next week to discuss their options.

Villafuerte said the group was composed of mayors, governors and those who wanted to be governors and representatives.

They are supportive of the Escudero-Legarda tandem, although there are not necessarily members of the NPC, said the Camarines Sur lawmaker.

"While we have not formalized it, we have committed from the very beginning. With these changes, we will have to reassemble," Villafuerte said in a telephone interview.

He said the members of the group would compare notes with the NPC and would evaluate their options.

Two other options

In the meeting at the NPC Clubhouse on Bohol Drive in Quezon City which was attended by some 30 members, Bobby said the party came up with two other possible courses of action in the wake of Escudero's resignation from the party.

He said the top option would be for the party to ignore Escudero's decision and proceed with its full lineup of candidates, from the vice president down to mayors.

In that case, he said the NPC would still be in search of a standard-bearer.

"Not because a presidential candidate or a single member of the NPC left doesn't mean the rest won't move anymore," Joe told the Filipinos.

The third option was for the NPC to coalesce with other political parties such as the administration's Lakas-Kampi-CMD, Sen. Manuel Villar's Nacionalista Party and Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III's Liberal Party.

Longshot

Some said the third option could be a longshot bidding, by the reaction of some NPC members in the meeting.

He said some of the members were scared by others' opinion to be the idea of coalescing with the ruling party, while others rejected a coalition with the Partido ng Masang Pilipino of former President Joseph Estrada.

Some said the choice of the political party to coalesce with would also depend on it agreeing the NPC's vice presidential candidate, Sen. Loren Legarda.

So far, he said only Villar and Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, the preferred standard-bearer of Lakas-Kampi-CMD, were without a running mate.

Legarda earlier rejected the invitation to run with Escudero.

Some said the NPC had agreed to determine its course of action during its general assembly on Nov. 3.

Loren: Rallying point

Legarda has become the NPC rallying point after the party was deserted by Escudero.

Telemaco Rep. Pete Gonzalez, NPC spokesperson, said that while the party was searching for a new standard-bearer in thinking of whether it would even field one, its vice-president would be its vice presidential candidate.

"We will rally around her support her. We will put all our effort in making sure she gets the vice presidency," he said.

After Escudero announced his surprising decision to bolt the party the other day, Legarda had quickly declared that she would be staying with the NPC as its vice-presidential candidate.

Gonzalez also said the NPC was not a jailhouse in response to Escudero's statement that no aspiring president could accept to carry out his plans when "his hands and feet are shackled, his eyes are blindfolded and mouth gagged."

"We would be left offended at allegations that Escudero left the party because he was not assured of enough funds for his [P]campaign.

Jubilant

He said the senator deserved more respect than painting a prior rag on him, adding that he was accepting Escudero's reasons for leaving at face value.

Unlike Escudero politicians, militant groups in the Bicol region are jubilant over Escudero's resignation from the NPC.

"This marks the right move in leaving NPC," said Vivo Lopez, the regional public information officer of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Bikol (Bayan-Bikol).

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-Bikol (KMP-Bikol) also welcomed Escudero's move.

NPC's biggest landlord

"In long last, Gito has escaped the stranglehold of [Eduardo] 'Bunding' Cojuangco," it said in news free to decide on his own. This is a welcome news for us, peasants, particularly owned farmers because Bunding is the biggest landlord in the country and will now be a will the one benefiting from the measure here," said Felix Ito, chair of KMP-Bikol.

Cojuangco is the chair emeritus of the NPC and the chair of Sen. Miguel Coja, where ousted Rep. Sandi was a big stake.

Lopez said he hopped to dialogue with those serving their vilest Escudero did not political suicide.

Actually, what he did believed his political stock and would help him to be accepted by many people who are tainted off by his Bunding connection," she said.

New politics

The Bicolnon Sto Cheange Movement, an alliance of Bicolnon nationwide, also expressed support for Escudero.

"Such action of Senator Escudero is a manifestation of the new politics that is expressing under the Bagong Pagbabago slogan and which must be sustained by our political leaders if our want to introduce meaningful change," it said.

RALLYING POINT The NPC is giving its all-out support to Loren Legarda, the party's vice presidential candidate who has no problem looking for someone to run with.

Click! Voters may confirm Comelec as friend on Facebook

By Abigail L. Ho

FIRST-TIME VOTERS, OR EVEN those who have been voting since they turned 18, may want to consider spending some interest time in the Constitution on Election' now voted unsworting site.

Designed to capture the hearts of Facebook addicts, the Comelec-only http://bagongbotante.ph website aims to "introduce a greater degree of interactivity and community building" among voters.

According to Comelec spokesperson Jeanie Arnaiz, the use of a social networking site to educate voters is "a first in the world, as far as I know."

Although called Bagong Botante, or New Voter, the site also targets those who have voted in previous elections.

"There's a need to reinvigorate the sense of excitement we felt the first time we voted. In that sense, everyone can be a Bagong Botante," Jarnaiz said in a special briefing for the Information Technology Journalists Association of the Philippines.

To prevent candidates and their supporters from using the site as a campaign vehicle, a team from the Comelec would be designated to handle the moderation tasks.

"Of course we can't really prevent those people from penetrating the site. But we'll boot out those who do anything bad," Jarnaiz said.

The Bagong Botante could eventually go on to actually pose a simulated vote in the Comelec's main voter education site, http://halagangcom.ph.

The site's name coincides with the slogan for the Comelec's P200-million information and education campaign—I.R.A. on Kapyaw: It's Better Automated.

The primary site will contain election information modules, including downloadable materials, particularly concerning the automated election process.

It will also contain demonstration videos and other visual aids to help voters feel less confused about how to mess the thing up.

"The switchover obtained is very important because the internet is the most predominant medium of all. It's more easily disseminable, and it is a force multiplier," Jarnaiz said.

Liza Maza for senator –Gabriela

THE RELENTLESS GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY-list group yesterday formally announced the unnatural bid of its three-term representative, Liza Maza, as it launched its "women's platform for action" for 2010 during its national convention which opened yesterday.

"It is high time that we send to the Senate a woman, linked by the women's movement who continuously moves the interest of marginalized women and children," said Gabriela chair and party-list Rep. Luz Ilagan in a statement.

Gabriela, which marked its 25th anniversary on Dec. 10, began promoting Maza's historic bid several months ago on social networking sites like Facebook.

Maza is one of several left-leaning activists who entered mainstream politics through the party-list system and make up the "progressive bloc" in the House of Representatives.

Two others in this group, Bayan Muna members Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño, are also reportedly running for the Senate.

Push revamp regular employment and equal opportunity for women and sufficient social services are the cornerstones of Gabriela's program of action for 2010.

Also on the party agenda are good governance, protection of women and children against all forms of violence, as well as protection of consumers.

"These issues are faced by women every day and the urgency to address them remains," Ilagan said.

She added the party would support the presidential candidate "who will live up to his (or her) word to the women's agenda."

Gabriela said it expected about 1,000 delegates from all over the country to attend the convention. *Nikko Dizon*

House bill bars 'midnight' app'ts

IN A MOVE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE "midnight" appointments, the House of Representatives has approved on third reading a bill prohibiting local government officials from appointing people to new posts immediately before an election.

The bill, authored by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, will stop mayors and governors from using their appointing power two months before an election and the period before their successors take their oaths of office.

Lagman explained that the measure was meant to curb or stop the abuse of this power for partisan purposes and for electioneering.

He said he pushed for the measure because of a loophole in the law that based on precedents have taken advantage of.

He noted that under the Constitution, the President is prohibited from making appointments before an election, unless the appointment is only temporary and to an executive position where a recess would be detrimental to public order and public service.

However, the same prohibition does not apply to local executives such as mayors and governors, he said. *Lydia B. Balmaceda*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the

COTO MINES

and the property adjacent to the

BALOGANON PORT

(covered by D.C.T. No. 6805)

both located in

Barangays Tartar, Masinloc, Zambales

are the subject of Civil Case No. 154 for

EJECTMENT / UNLAWFUL DETAINER

filed by

Consolidated Mines, Inc ("CMI")

versus

Compañia Minera Tubajon, Inc.

Before Branch 2, Municipal Circuit Trial Court, Masinloc-Palauig, Zambales

In this regard, the public is discreetly advised that it is CMI's position that any and all mineral deposits, including low grade chromite sand otherwise known as "Salagat" located and/or stored in the COTO MINES or on the property adjacent to the BALOGANON PORT (covered by D.C.T. No. 6805), solely and exclusively belong to CMI and that no queries or requests for clarification on the aforesaid matters shall be entertained except only if such queries or requests are directed to CMI.

NOTICE AND WARNING

V12

KPI Manufacturing Corporation (KPI) is the owner of the trademark V12 used for automotive speakers, subwoofers and amplifiers. This trademark is registered with the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) for the aforesaid goods on August 11, 2009 under Cert. of Reg. No. 4-2009-003347.

It has reached the attention of KPI that some unscrupulous parties have been manufacturing, importing, distributing and selling automotive speakers and amplifiers bearing the above trademark without the authority of KPI. Such unauthorized act constitutes Trademark Infringement and/or Unfair Competition punishable by a fine ranging from P50,000.00 to P 200,000.00 and imprisonment from 2 years to 5 years pursuant to Sections 155 and 168 in relation to Sec. 170 of R. A. 8293 (The Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines). This is without prejudice to civil liabilities and administrative sanctions imposed by law for committing such offenses.

Warning is therefore made upon those who deal with infringing/unauthorized V12 automotive speakers and amplifiers to immediately cease and desist from engaging in such and like illegal activities. Otherwise, KPI will be constrained to take the necessary legal actions to protect its interests over the said trademark.

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HYUNDAI GRAND STAREX WINS TOP AWARD AS

All eyes were on Hyundai during the 2009 Auto Focus People's Choice awards held last October 15, as the country's Top 4 automotive brand was honored with a total of six awards, including the famed Automobile of the Year distinction for its pioneering Grand Starex. Dubbed as Hyundai's legendary passenger van, the Grand Starex also emerged as the year's People's Choice in the Full-Size Van category, continuing its stance as the leading people mover in its class.

The Genesis Coupe, a new addition to the stable of cutting-edge automotives of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the official distributor of Hyundai in the Philippines, was another revelation of the winning heritage of Hyundai, South Korea's largest automaker—and the world's fourth, as the Genesis Coupe bagged the 2009 Sports Car of the Year award.

From that career-up last year, the Tucson reigned as the 2009 Compact SUV of the Year—a triumphant first for HARI in the said category, echoing Hyundai's growing popularity and reputation as the best-selling SUV in the market today.

The Hi also shared in the spotlight by bagging the runner-up award in the Sub-compact Sedan category and Best Dating for the Style award in the Auto Focus Special Medical's Choice Awards, while the Santa Fe, Hyundai's stylish SUV, was declared a runner-up in the Mid-size SUV category.

Crowne data crowne

Created by Sunshine TV, one of the most respected automotive media in the country headed by esteemed motoring maestro Mr. Butch Dalisdis, the Auto Focus People's Choice (AFPC) Awards is a tribute to the automotive industry's active role online, as judged by the motoring public. Votes from its official website, including partner media outlets in print and radio determine the public's favorite automobiles in each of the auto industry's 12 major categories, plus the top pick as Automobile of the Year.

Hyundai immediately showed great promise as a favorite brand, taking wins in the Full Size Van category of the AFPC Awards in 2006—the same year that Sunshine TV launched this prestigious event. This success was duplicated in 2007, and in 2008, the Hyundai Starex scored a three-peat win in the Full Size Van category, with the Grand Starex as the new title holder.

In the 4th year of the AFPC Awards, Hyundai continues its trailblazing wins, boasting of new victories not just in the Passenger Van category, but also in the Compact SUV and Sports Car categories—proving that time and again, Hyundai remains a force to be reckoned with, and an industry challenger undaunted in the face of competition.

HYUNDAI

HYUNDAI AUTHORIZED DEALERS

2009 Auto Focus Automobile of the Year

Record-breaker

They say that adversity causes some men to break, and others to break records. Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the official distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the Philippines, did exactly that—they broke records, at a time when the financial crisis threatened the industry and stories of unbelievable strength swept the country. Call it irony, but for HARI, now recognized as the "top 4 automotive brand…destiny had a hand in it.

In a celebrated awarding ceremony spearheaded by HMC last April in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, HARI emerged as the 2008 most outstanding distributor for its excellent performance in all areas of distributor operations, beating 11 others that vied for the top recognition as HARI achieved high scores in major categories that include Organization, Customer Satisfaction, Training, DEP Evaluation, and Warranty. Two months following the occasion, HARI made the country proud during the Hyundai Motor Global Distributors Convention awarding ceremonies, as it received the 2008 Award of Excellence for its outstanding performance in four major categories, namely Sales and Marketing, After-sales, Customer Relationship Management, and Dealer Management, crowning HARI as the Asia Pacific Distributor of the Year for the third time in a span of only four years. Apart from this prestigious token of honor from Hyundai, HARI was also bestowed with the 2008 Best DEP Award for its tenacious implementation of Hyundai's DEP (evolving the customer-centric culture of Hyundai's corporate identity in showrooms and dealer operations, as well as the distributor's commitment to DEP by certifying a total of 28 dealers in Hyundai Elite dealer status.

Adding to its string of victories for its competent distributorship operations are awards garnered from the 6th annual i1 Awards held last July. The i10, Hyundai's small yet feisty 1.1L GLS A/T car emerged as the 2008 Editor's Pick Mini Compact Car of the Year. The Genesis Coupe, Hyundai's own benchmark for affordable 300-horsepower sport coupes, garnered acclaim as 2008 Editor's Pick Sports Sedan/Coupe of the Year, reaffirming the Korean automaker's success-ful strides in this sophisticated segment. And for the third time, the Hyundai Elantra, with its latest model, the 2009 VGT-powered Grand Elantra, was hailed as the Editor's Pick in the Fun-Size People Carrier category. With HARI focused on its drive to keep evolving as its top-of-mind priority through its constant introduction of innovative automobiles and adherence to excellence in managing its distributorship, expect that Hyundai will remain a brand to watch out for, poised to outshine the competition—and above all, win as the people's automobile of choice.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Politics at the pump

IT IS DIFFICULT TO ARGUE AGAINST THE TEMPORary imposition of a price ceiling on pump prices in Luzon. Many parts of the island are still recovering from the devastating consequences of "Ondoy" and "Pepeng." It is cruel to subject the victims of extraordinary calamities to what can be described as "even regular" increases in oil prices.

And yet the issue is not so cut-and-dried as it seems.

EDITORIAL

Certainly, the initial responses of the major oil companies have been less than sympathetic. Their leading officials have issued statements that can be construed as a not very subtle form of blackmail. Edgar Chua of Shell warned of "serious implications, not only to the supply of products in the country, but also to investments."

A temporary ceiling on pump prices, to allow millions of the industry's consumers a temporary breathing spell in a time of grave crisis, is a disincentive to investing in the country? We think Chua and other industry spokesmen are arguing from extremes. Consider this other statement of Chua's: "Would you consider higher public interest for products to be cheap-but not available, or for products to be expensive, reflecting the true cost, but available?" This is a false choice, because the temporary price ceiling does not contemplate cheap products but only less expensive pricing. There is a difference. We hope the oil industry, which has profited from its investments in the country (in the proliferation of new gas stations alone proved), can absorb the additional cost or accept a lower profit margin, temporarily, for the sake of the communities it says it serves.

The politics of Malacañang, however, is another thing.

The legal basis for the decisive political action looks secure enough: Key laws have granted the Department of Energy certain powers in crisis situations in its sweep. Section 28 of the Department of Energy Act of 1992 provides that, "In time of critically low energy supply or imminent danger thereof, the President may, upon the determination and recommendation of the [Energy] Secretary, issue a declaration of the same," after which the DOE implements a "fuel and energy allocation plan." Section 14 of the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998 provides that, "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the DOE may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any person or entity engaged in the industry."

In other words, the DOE has the mandate to align the energy industry directly with government objectives and the public interest—in a national emergency.

And yet the legal basis has itself been undermined by Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes' previous statements warning against the clear effects of a price ceiling. "The problem is when you impose a price ceiling, the cure might be worse than the disease," he said two weeks ago (just a week before President Macapagal-Arroyo issued the executive order imposing the ceiling). He added: "You're trying to address a pricing problem but you end up with a supply problem. And that will be more disastrous."

We note with concern that, not only has Reyes unreported the oil companies' principal objection, but he has also pointed out the main limitations of the key provisions in the law: They mandate emergency action in a time of critically low supply, not inordinately high prices.

We also note Reyes' contemptuous regard for genuine public discussion of oil pricing. For instance, despite a subpoena, he declined to appear at a Manila Regional Trial Court hearing on a case involving oil prices earlier this week. Instead of enhancing the testimony of former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto that oil prices were overpriced by as much as P6 per liter, Reyes sought refuge in technicalities.

The behavior makes us wonder whether the administration's new-found resolve to impose a price ceiling is motivated by nothing more than popular, rather than policy considerations. It also makes us suspect that, precisely because of Reyes' conduct, the entire issue has been managed in such a way as to lend, and to be lots, to the enemy.

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Ghost stories for All Saints' Day

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THIS IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN PEOple like to be scared. Whether it is going to the cemetery alone, staying in the dark, watching horror movies, reading ghost stories, listening to horror tales, or playing pranks, it satisfies the desire of humans to be scared out of their wits. A priest in motion pictures, the horror movie, has grown and matured from just good exorcists to Jesuits scared. There is also a priest-astronaut and magazine publishing that capitalizes on this human quirk, the ghost stories.

Telling scary stories to young people was a favorite pastime during moonlit nights in the old days. When no street lights were used to gather under the street lamp in the street corner to listen to older folk tell us stories about ancestors and supernatural and fantastic and aswang and other ghouls and monsters. She believed the stories and afterwards we couldn't go home alone to the bathroom in the dark but we must run or more of the ghouls we just heard about. We had to wait for an adult walking home and then walk beside him all the way home. His presence gave us courage.

The scary house for our area was on a dark fishpond dike. In the middle of the night, when nobody was around, I would sneak out of my room and run past it as fast as I could. This I did not even once dare to run the pond was somewhere.

On Halloween or All Saints' Day, the young men and women of our barrio went overnight. They called it "tanguingguingan." The people of the small town stayed in the village square crisp and the residents of the houses opened their windows and invited the serenaders to have some snacks. What the homeowners didn't know was that while the serenaders were singing and eating, some of their companions were raiding the chicken coop and stealing eggs or even whole chickens. Afterwards, they would cook the eggs and chicken and have a feast.

One of the most scary episodes of my childhood took place in our chicken coop. We were talking in the sala during a rainy night when we heard the chickens clucking and flying in the coop behind the house. Mistress Imelda from the fish pond sometimes raided our chicken. So my brother Isidro told me to go out and check.

I was afraid to go out because I thought it was a ghost so that's bringing out to life.

From the window Isidro began to assure. My eyes popped out as I watched it. Then to my horror, it began to move toward me. I bolted, screaming.

The race followed by loud laughter behind me. I locked back and there was my cousin laughing his head off with the rest of the boys and girls. My older cousins and brothers were also there laughing. They had played a prank on me.

My father had bought, on installment, a set of books by the classical writers, four-inch thick books bound in leather, from Meinkomite via Bagumbayan to De Huguenot via Arcatraz to Pere to Johnnie to Zola, etc. They came with a bookcase and there it sat in the living room with the bound books neatly lined up inside. This was where I encountered the world's authors and I first had a taste of world literature while I was in elementary school. One of my favorites was Edgar Allan Poe who wrote scary stories, like "The Cask of Amontillado."

I liked Poe's stories so much that the first short story I ever wrote in high school was a ghost story. In it, the four characters accepted a bet to go to a cemetery alone at night. I put in all the clichés of ghost stories—the dead should refuse! 13), a black cat crossed his path, he walked under a ladder, bats flew about, etc., etc. He was found dead the next morning inside the cemetery, his face twisted in horror. What he saw and why and how he died they never were able to find out.

It was published in the high school organ and my schoolmates liked it. They hailed me as the new Edgar Allan Poe and asked me to write more.

My last story was titled "The Legend of the Bat." The original bat was not human but a beautiful and educated woman who wanted to live forever. She made a pact with the Devil who promised to make her immortal in exchange for immortality; she was transformed into the likeness of human. Her beautiful nails grew sometimes, her flowing robes became ugly wings. Her eyes pointed east and dawn. She became a vampire bat who sucked human blood. She could not die but she could be killed. She was killed. I will summarize to shorten my reference.

I went to seminary and the seminarians that the first two years besides. I brought with my own money, from a Boys scholarship and, were no discipline of ghost stories. I soon grew out of it, however.

My last short story published in the Philippines was Peter Pan, when a senior in high school was about a former who refused to pay revolutionary taxes to rebels. He just wanted to till his farm and to work in peace. While working in the fields, he was shot to the bush. The last paragraph he dwelt with how he felt and thought as he slowly bled to death, not there in the fields, surrounded by his beloved plants.

Asean posturing on human rights

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

HERE IT COMES TO PROTECTING HUMAN rights in the Asean, remember the adage: Watch what they do, not what they say. In the past couple of weeks, we've had two events in Manila where everyone "say what everyone and mean what you say." Barrooom: words are mostly one of many poses in tableau, and the 8-sentence test is to be elected brain within the weight of symbols, sometimes overt, sometimes subtle. But not this time: business of meaning.

Asean (the number when you read the news) grand declarations on human rights. Only this one you remember the paper declarations with the hand: had that the Asean way is to look the other way. In the case of Burma, for example, not the Philippine civil society representatives during their "interface" with and society? In Gen Lazaro of the Protection Intern of the Indonesian Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM), a group that during the dark years of Asian military rule the Chandler's "prophets" mission" in keeping the flame alive. Yet at 11:30 a.m., on the eve of the dialogue, she was found 8 metres away with the urgent message that the Asean ministers, including the Philippines' own, had voted to block her (and our others) from the dialogue.

In the end, we will never tell you why the proposed Asean Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) looks good on paper. Its seven members will sit "in a personal capacity"—lawyers mumble-jumbo to say that they should be independent of their sense of nationality.

Though some persons may seem too soft for the heavy services running for a shoulding, the AICHR is not entirely toothless either. "to investigate [violations] on its own initiative"; to "on complaints made by a "provisions and communications," which significantly can be filed by individuals or even by NGOs. Finally, states may not enter "reservations"—literally "to sit in bars," no "opting out"—when they sign up.

But the AICHR has a double-edged sword. Line (the BBC cancels the real only under reservations. The "naming and shaming" process may have worked elsewhere, but how do you shame the chameleon? How does one appeal to conscience when the other has none?

Two, the name itself is misleading. As a "Commission," it would have supervisory powers of the states. But they were timid: "Intergovernmental" is the word. Who is in charge? Who's boss and who's paying, exactly what the governments were doing when they banned the civil society representatives.

Three, and most important, look at the sentence: Article 2, the knockout punch against the AICHR. It states the "interests of Asean" are already merely what human rights the AICHR is empowered to watch out for. Read it verbatim: "Inspection shall be drawn from international law on human rights [and] universally recognized human rights standards and principles ... The relevant and universal international law includes the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human rights [1948 UDHR], the 1966 UN Instruments on the Right to Development, the 1993 Vienna Declaration, ... and the treaties to which the Contracting States have acceded."

One, if the treaty is meant to be a binding instrument, why the endless shift to soft language like "inspiration shall be drawn from ..."? Either the rights are binding or they're not. Don't give me any "inspiration" stuff here, and ignore the passive ("shall be drawn from," I will say, this kind of draftsmanship bears the hallmarks of someone trying to avoid something. Article 2 says how the AICHR will be inspired, but says nothing on what to use to resolve conflicts. When Article 2 was adopted, I can imagine the Asean lawyers smiling like the cat that ate the canary.

Two, another case of fudging is the term "relevant instruments." Why not "applicable" or "enforceable"? Heave, the list is quite by-case by the host. It starts with a 1948 document and then jumps to 1966. It skips the two landmark documents, the 1966 International Covenants, one on Civil and Political Rights, the other on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. And it leaves hanging the "founding omnipresence" of customary law, like the bits on contracts that should apply even in the absence of any treaty.

Instead, it lists non-binding instruments, starting with the 1948 UDHR (but the Philippine Supreme Court has pooh-poohed as a mere non-binding statement) to a case where a Philippine court has already declared it to be part of customary international law (Kuwait v. Reid, it lists two non-binding documents that actually lay the ground to say that civil rights can be postponed in exchange for economic growth; the Right to Development declaration and the Vienna declaration. They trade words and phrases like "progressive realization" and "economic, social and cultural rights" are enforceable, interdependent and interrelated"—universal touch that have been twisted in numerous human evil.

The coup de grace to this human rights instrument is in a catch-all clause: "and the provisions to which the Contracting States have acceded." So presidents do open-ended treaties. It will open the door to outrageous asset rights! Think again. It means that the AICHR can enforce only such human rights treaties that the Philippines has ratified. Period.

In contrast, the Inter-American and the African human rights mechanisms are bound by a stand-alone, self-contained charter of rights. The AICHR has no human rights charter to enforce. Just merely cross-references the enforcement regimes of the UN—a recipe for paralysis of treatise. If a state doesn't sign any human rights treaty, you will have a human rights organization with no human rights to administer vis-à-vis that state. It's like telling Bernie Madoff to run Wall Street—but then, don't tell me what rules we are enforcing on Wall Street.

Comments to pangalangan.reason@gmail.com

Poll exclusion of young voters

UP TO 4 MILLION VOTERS FACE EXCLUSION from the May 2010 election unless the registration of new voters speeds up to catch the registration deadline tomorrow.

Ten days before the deadline, Comelec Chair Jose Melo admitted that only 1.6 million of the 4 million new voters had registered, meaning fears that many would be disenfranchised. The Catholic Church-sponsored Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting said last week that it would be lucky if 2 million voters registered, on top of the 1.6 million, but Comelec insiders are unwilling, and thousands who have stepped up to fold offices to sign up have been turned back and told to try because, according to Comelec officials, the Comelec has run out of registration documents and their data capturing machines (DCM) cannot take down more.

The DCM, which records the voter's fingerprints, photograph and pertinent information, can only process 200 applications a day. The Comelec has issued longer queues that started to build up since the voter registration started on Dec. 1 but now The Comelec has started telling voters not enrolling at the last hour. "The problem with some of us is that we wait until the last minutes," Melo said.

Non-governmental groups have been campaigning for a larger representation of young voters to give them a greater say in the votes in the country's next generation of leaders.

Senators Alan Peter Cayetano, Richard Gordon and Francis Pangilinan have expressed concern over the possible exclusion of a huge chunk of voters, pointing out that only about 200,000 people could register since the rate the Comelec is processing the applications.

The large turnout, albeit at the last hour, is one indication of the high level of interest among the young in politics as the country moves toward electing a new generation of leaders. As of last June, 4 million voters, or 6.5 percent of the 61 million registered voters, had expected 48 million registered voters in the May 2010 election. The demographic breakdown of the national population in 2000, according to age, was as a young electoral base. Of the total population of 76,506,077, there were 7 million in the 10-14 age group; 6 million in the 15-19 age group; 5.5 million in the 20-24 age group; 5 million in the 25-29 age group; 4.1 million in the 30-34 age group; 3.7 million in the 35-39 age group; and 3.3 million in the 40-44 age group.

The exclusion of a large segment of young voters from electoral participation could spark frustration and cynicism among the youth over the electoral process as a medium for political renewal at a time when there is an apparent chance for a leadership change spearheaded by young and idealistic people.

While the Comelec does not appear to be up to the task of opening up the electoral list to young voters, it has struck a blow to a desperate attempt of young rebellious military officers to enter the political process through the electoral route. In a recent resolution, the Comelec rejected an application of Magdalo, a group of soldiers who staged a coup in July 2003 against the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to launch a political party and seek legislative and local positions in the May elections.

The coup, led by Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV, was marked after the detained soldiers seized the Oakwood Hotel in the heart of the Makati business center. The coup makers have been imprisoned, but its top leader, Trillanes, can be voted in 2007, and now, has the Supreme Court backed him from taking his Senate seat. In its resolution, the Comelec pointed out that the Magdalo group undermined civilian supremacy over the military. The resolution said there was no assurance that its leaders would not engage in another mutiny.

But the foregoing shows that the principal founders of the Magdalo Para sa Pagbabago Party remain unrepentant and that they still harbor the propensity to engage in another illegal adventure similar to the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny. I should they fail again to achieve their goal," the decision said.

Nicodemo Ferrer, presiding commissioner of the Comelec's Second Division, said the poll body was concerned about the fact that majority of the group's members were former military officers, and feared the group could use a "political party status to secure and subvert many disciplined but former military men to their blind followers."

Magdalo is fielding two jailed senior officers, an army general and a Marine colonel who figured in another coup attempt against the Arroyo government in February 2006, and four junior officers for congressional and local government posts. This is the first time the Comelec withdrew the accreditation of a political party to enter the parliamentary arena, although a number of officers engaged in coup attempts against the government of President Corazon Aquino had been elected individually to governorate positions, notably former Gen. Eduardo Kalaw, who was elected to the Senate. Honasan, a leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), led several coup attempts against the Aquino government from 1986 to 1989. The election to the Senate did not seem to have dampened his ardor for planting coups, and he did not show that a thing at all when he led the Magdalo group during its coup attempts.

This record was not lost on the Comelec when it decided not to take any risks by giving legitimacy to the Magdalo Party to enter the parliamentary circuit.

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

Party of confusion

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN DIFFICULT TO TELL POLitical parties apart in this country. The best way to identify a party, in fact, is to name its leader, most likely the standard bearer in a presidential election year.

In the years before martial law, the most prominent political parties were the Nacionalista and Liberal, which later were been resurrected in a somewhat paler versions of themselves. Politicians of that time routinely shuffled between the LP and the LP depending on which party held power in Malacañang or favored one's candidacy for a lower position.

In 1964, after a falling out with President Diosdado Macapagal, Senate President Ferdinand Marcos left the LP to join the Nacionalista Party and campaigned successfully for the presidency on the NP ticket. Senator Gerardo Roxas, who was Marcos' vice presidential running mate, was considered the titular head of the party, but NP stalwarts urged him to open his war chest and start his campaigning early. But Roxas, perhaps out of an excess of pride and idealism declared: "If I offer to run for the presidency, I do indeed go right and the NPs never ask for it. I want victory with Liberal support or none at all."

But after declaring martial law in 1972, Marcos not only shut down both houses of Congress, but also destroyed the hegemony of the Liberals and Nacionalistas as the two major parties. He was almost literally since its brightest lights were interned in the Bicutan Detention Center. He then launched the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan or KBL, which would become a major force, dominating a broad coalition of pro-administration political and local officials, even as autonomous regional and local parties devised ways to circumvent the KBL's dominance.

* * *

After the 1986 and the ouster of the Marcoses and their allies, it restored the party-up political passions of Filipinos suddenly liberated and freed from the KBL's dominance.

And that's how it's the NPC, which is back in the headlines after its putative presidential candidate, Sen. Francis Escudero, announced that he was leaving the party because some statements (I am paraphrasing him) should belong to no other party than that of the Filipinos. And count as his party mates all Filipinos.

Grilled by journalists about his "real" plans, Escudero played coy, saying he was neither a Nacionalista nor a Liberal (a statement construed as a tech man's bath), a veiled reference perhaps to the LP's Senator Aquino who belongs to the feuded Cojuangco clan, or Gilbert Teodoro, also a nephew (like Aquino) of Eduardo Cojuangco, chairman emeritus of the Nacionalista Party. But he could not or not answer my thoughts of a presidential run as an independent. Although, as talk has it, he may not be averse to being the running mate of a billionaire, the NP's Sen. Manny Villar.

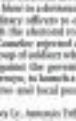
* * *

ESCUDERO'S quibbles about his lack of funds give credence to the theory published in yesterday's Inquirer. That his leaving the NPC may be a ploy to get the party's campaign kitty. Apparently, Cojuangco doesn't quite believe in Chiz's chances as the presidency and doesn't want to commit the funds needed to launch a feasible campaign.

There is also wondering if there isn't a kind of "filial" polemic in this political scenario. As the young upstart in the NPC lineup, Chiz may have felt he was the "favored son" in Eduardo's eyes. Especially since his previous favorite, his nephew Paolo, had been kicked out of Eduardo's graces and chose to run for his re-vote 2004. Perhaps Chiz was sensing some softening on Eduardo's part toward the prodigal nephew?

There's about a month left before the period for filing of candidacy begins. In recent developments alone, nothing is sure until the papers are signed and the Comelec validates the forms. And even then, some surprises are bound to be crop up given our confused and confusing party setup.

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Filipino heroes in Hong Kong

ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN VISITING HONG KONG regularly for close to four decades now, I never tire of the place because each trip always has a discovery. I have since outgrown the glitzy shopping malls of Tsim Sha Tsui or Kowloon, that Filipino shopaholics know like the back of their hand, and enjoy walking aimlessly on Hong Kong Island, content to catch a glimpse of their colonial past, but to close the places where our heroes lived in exile. Everyone knows that Jose Rizal maintained an eye clinic here and that one of his girlfriends, Josephine Bracken, was from Hong Kong, but it is not well known that Rizal's mistress, Leonor Rivera, and their son lived or visited Hong Kong, including Emilio Aguinaldo, Gregorio del Pilar, Pedro Paterno, Jose Ma. Basa, Felipe and Marcelo Agoncillo.

Rizal maintained an eye clinic on Hong Kong Island. His calling cards provide three separate addresses: 2 Wyndham Street and Stanley Street building Queen's Road in a place everyone calls "Central" and a third address up in an area known as "Mid-levels," which is accessible through the longest escalator in the world, where he and most of his family lived. The place is called Robinson Road. Tourists are free to ride the escalator. The Hong Kong Antiquities Board have installed historical markers in Pagoda Street and Bridges Street in recognition of the large Filipino community in Hong Kong. We can only hope that the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong can negotiate the installation of another marker on Rizal's former address till there is a museum to honor Rizal and host paintings that Rizal saw in his time. Fine former Hong Kong Senior Affairs Secretary Dr. Patrick Ho (2002-2007) happened to be a friend of the Filipino community and an ophthalmologist, who included in Rizal's hospital. Some Rizal, probably explains why Rizal is honored by two historical markers, but why not three?

Some people may say that history over-emphasizes Rizal and ignores other heroes. Well, history is based on written records and Rizal happened to write a great deal, and his papers have come down to our times. Aguinaldo and Del Pilar were on hand fighting a revolution or dying in the enemy that they had little time to write or preserve what little was written.

While Rizal's business cards provide us with his addresses, we are not so lucky with others. Where did Emilio Aguinaldo stay? Where did the dashing Gregorio del Pilar have his suite suite? Where did Pedro Paterno go for coffee that he installed in the "museum"? There is even a question on where exactly the Aguinaldo fund became then is Morrison Road and Morrison Hill Road.

All this requires new research, perhaps by Filipino historians in Hong Kong like Jack Braganza, Emily Mandap or Rhondda Reyes. The Hong Kong Antiquities Board has installed a marker on Morrison Hill Road, now a children's playground, where Felipe and Marcela Agoncillo once lived. It was in their home that the flag of the first Philippine republic was sewn.

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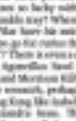
LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Happy death

I USED TO REACT. PARTS IN PROTEST AND PARTS IN dismay when my mother would go, "I always pray for a happy death."

I thought it was a rather morbid statement, and since I never heard other people saying something similar, I thought it was unique to my mother. Through the years, I learned to stop reacting to statements and attributed it to her very close connect with death.

Some her own and others of people she had to care for. I won't describe those many caregivers and undertakers (one brother, she's had because she complains whenever I write about her illnesses, but I am certain all those experiences did alter her mind-set that "happy death" mindset.

For my mother, a happy death would be a quick one, with minimal suffering for the patient, as well as for the family. She likes to use the example of a family friend, an elderly woman, who was found dead, still sitting on her favorite rocking chair.

Seeking a happy death collides head on her fear death. We all have those fears, in varying degrees and for many different reasons. Death itself is considered a topic that you avoid in polite conversations, except among bizzenders and Alfaster fans.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Fears

For Filipinos, the fears of death can be quite intense and come from a mixture of sources. Some fear life and whatever or near one there might be. Because health care is so woefully expensive in the Philippines, we fear not so much death than a lingering serious illness. All of us have our share of horror stories of relatives and friends whose household savings we wiped out with just one family member's long illness.

The fears of death can also be religious. Many of us, rather than one after life economics introduced with Christianity, i.e., Heaven and hereafter as punishment for a sinful life. With Catholics, there's one more scenario of purgatory, still a state of suffering, but the not so sinful, which means just about everybody.

Threats of intense suffering are not unique to Christianity. Strangulation, beheading and fear of burning refers to such merciful punishments that were quite easy with several imaginable torments inflicted by ghastly executioners similar to the Christian devil.

These stories were meant as social control, i.e., to make people conform to social norms. These beliefs are not limited to developing countries like our own. Many Americans believe in hell and all that, complete with demons armed people who claim to have seen this awful place in one of their near-death experiences.

Beyond the imagery around heaven, hell, purgatory and limbo (formerly a destination for the souls of babies who die before baptism, and now officially declared as more eminent by the Vatican), there are a number of other cultural responses to death and dying. I wanted to zero in on what are called literary texts. Two of the more famous ones, which have been translated into English and other languages, are the Egyptian "Book of the Dead" and the "Tibetan Book of the Dead."

The English translation of the "Book of the Dead" says away from the original, which is Budhi Thodol, literally translated as Liberation During the Limited Time. Instead referring to that transitory period between death and a next life.

The Tibetans are Buddhist and believe in rebirth. Budhi Thodol talks about reincarnation, but also focuses on the experiencing of death. Some of the descriptions are mind-boggling, especially with the harrowing experiences I have read several near-death experiences (n.d., seeing a light at the end of a tunnel). Budhi Thodol is read in the dying, allowing them that "liberation" from the fears of death and move on to another life.

"Rebirthing pregnancies"

The idea of having someone guide you through illness and dying came to mind when I read Dr. Catholics' last time of liberation function that function. I didn't realize though that there was, for Filipino Catholics, something like a function text. Just last month, I bought a book from an antique dealer with this intriguing title: "Casayuran nang pagdalan sa mga may mgat at pagdalang sa mabuting pagcamatay" (loose translation: a discussion on the road of those who are ill and a road to a good death). The book was published in 1838 by Father Jan Matthias, a non-ordained priest based in Intramuros. He will help books (e.g., on medicinal plants) in Tagalog.

"Casayuran" had no author, but its very long subtitle gives no clues as to its origins, acknowledging that it is "selected from 'Cuentas de Buen Morir' and other books and writings with lessons and prayers that should be read by the sick."

I did an Internet search for "Cuentas de buen morir" and realized that maybe it was one of many books produced in Spain during the 18th and 19th century to help people have a good death. "Cuentas" means a flash (as in a flash of lightning), which doesn't make sense as part of the title, but maybe it referred to a Balthasar Gracián who did write one of those books.

"Casayuran" is mainly a compilation of prayers meant to be used by the sick as well as the patient's caregivers. The preface suggests that if an illness worsens, the patient's relatives and caregivers, as well as the priest, should be contacted a priest to administer the last rites. The emphasis in the whole book, which consists of reflections as well as prayers, is to get the patient to have a good death by repenting for his or her sins. The text describes serious many diseases, from diarrhea goodness and Christ's love, to an occasional reference to divine punishment.

Reading through the text, which wasn't easy because it is in old Tagalog, did remind me that my mother's aspirations for a "happy death" are very much tied to religion, more specifically Catholicism.

Reflecting on the idea of a good death got me thinking about Chinese concepts. In Chinese, someone perceived to be a "bad" person is described as "bad at" in Pinyin/Putonghua and "pai si" in Hokkien or Minnan Chinese, both meaning "bad death." I used to think it was a superlative expression as in "oh, he is bad to the extreme." But it turns out it can also mean that someone is bad for "bad" karma, i.e., that dying itself becoming a punishment. Local Chinese do not sometimes say in reaction to someone who has done something really abominable, that he or she will not have a good death (hao si ci).

I find such terms repulsive because you can have the kindest and most generous people going through horrible painful illnesses. It's most unfortunate to look at death as having something they deserved.

Brandon Gaerlan Aquino actually noticed interest in all these ideas of happy and good deaths with her poetic "Prayer for a Happy Death," published in the Inquirer last July 9. I never suspected such specialized interest in such a young girl. In the poem, she writes that we don't know when we will go, and so we must lead good lives. For the bereaved, Cory's prayer asks for eternal comforting, and thanks them for the roles they played in allowing a good life.

In many ways, Cory's prayer is somewhat modern with a very simple message: a good and happy death comes if one is a good life.

* * *

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Legalize drug pushing too?

LETTERS

AZKALS IS AN "OPEN-SECRET" ILLEGAL cockfight game, and if we leave it legal (i.e. as Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, Joseph "Erap" Estrada, Gloria Arroyo), why don't we legalize as well poker and drug pushing? After all, money lives also depend on these games for survival.

Proceeds on casinos are legal and so is the PCSO-operated lotto. Even jails operated by the country every country has revenue and lottery games, which are operating legally for infrastructures, restaurants and leisure.

Equally important is that while jueteng workers and "finds" (hundreds of jueteng "collectors/runners," "collectors and middlers," a million thousands of bookmakers of their much-needed livelihood) will

In if rich people are robbed in casinos and other gambling games, they just don't cry since they enjoy. But if you are ordinary Filipino in jueteng, you're killing them as well as their children.

I wonder why Erap would like to legalize jueteng when in fact it messed his downhill. Well, talk about losing a billion.

The right solution is unemployment is not to legalize jueteng. The right solution is economic decrease and dispersing jobs.

—ROBERT EMILIO B. ROMERO, e-libor_edp@yahoo.com

Numbers speak clearly. Estrada not abandoned

WITH RESPECT TO JOHN HEPT'S OCT. 27 column titled "Erap abandoned," I hope's income President Joseph "Erap" Estrada looking at the numbers again:

Pulse Asia Survey Oct. 20-31, 2007, immediately after he was declared guilty by the handpicked and visibly overruled Sandiganbayan justices: 37 percent said they still trusted him; disagreed with the verdict. From Class T, which he's got to study highlighted in the results, a whopping 40 percent said "Yes, Erap is not guilty of plunder." And when asked if they thought that this 40 percent majority of the former president was just "tradition against," 69 percent said "No, it's not this," with 30 percent saying the reason for this answer was clear they believed Erap was "really not guilty."

In the same survey, when asked to rank the least corrupt presidents in Philippine history, former President Estrada came in second only to former President Aquino.

SWS Survey, June 27-30, 2008. Fifty-seven percent of the population said they want former President Estrada, giving him a net trust rating of +38. A similar survey by Pulse Asia shows that the vote rating of the former president is consistent in recovery and the rough time. The Pulse Asia Survey conducted from July 29 to Aug. 10, 2008, shows Erap's voter rating at 37 percent.

Even at his lowest point, immediately after his ouster in February 2001, Estrada's trust rating was at 26 percent (March 2001, 25 percent). But trust has since been regained, hitting 47 percent in August 2008.

In a June 2008 SWS survey, which asked the people who they would vote for president in 2010, Estrada topped with 21 percent, with Sen. Manuel Villar coming in second at 16 percent. In the July 26-Aug. 31, 2008 Pulse Asia Survey, while Villar was here with 26 percent, Erap was second-placed with 19 percent. Although Sen. Benigno was not yet considered at the time, as this had former President Estrada declared his intention to run (not yet declared).

It is also worthy to note that when former President Estrada was ousted in 2001 Angara is no second only to the plunder cases on the former in 2001 and 2006, respectively, both was in spite of Erap's ouster and imprisonment, not to mention the negative press on the two presidents.

Conclusion: Most people believe that Erap is not guilty of plunder. The majority believe that he is one of the least corrupt presidents in the history of the country. The majority of the Filipinos continue to trust him. Most importantly, the people have continued to vote for the Estrada's and, in this election—a very high—percentage would like Erap to become president again in 2010.

It may yet be come but there are the numbers. And this can hardly be called abandonment.

—RAMON P. SATTO
spokesperson
former President Joseph E. Estrada
pjes.media@gmail.com

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QC gov't doing best to serve all sectors

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER OF Dec. 1, Jan. Hugo: I'm not in income poor in basic necessary business, so to say.

From the first year of the Bedumer administration, the Quezon City government has been doing its best to meet the needs of all sectors of the city's population, including the urban poor.

It is sad to note that Jose Hugo sees the Quezon City yellow mail, to calls but not the new administration, especially the new schools and bridges, big public school buildings, health centers and police stations with patrol cars and crime-fighting equipment acquired by the Quezon City government. Perhaps, he already failed to notice that Quezon City has redeveloped and upgraded 88 parks and repaired 276 markets.

And there are so many new good things to see in Quezon City if only we would look around.

Above Jose Hugo's complaint regarding an entrepreneur doing business right outside the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs, the matter is now under investigation by that office and other authorities concerned.

As regards the unsolicited garbage, it was probably among the huge piles of garbage and debris left by the "Ondoy" floods in the city. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte himself supervised the return of City Hall people and volunteers to the cleaning and disposing work after the floods had receded. OCT Hall also fielded additional dump trucks for the cleanup.

As for San Diego's comment that Quezon City should connect roads like a highway connecting all barangays in southern City Hall under the Belmonte administration has made it a policy that virtually everyone in the national government agencies and offices in the city, whenever presently the public of Quezon City—the policemen, firemen, jail guards, team employees, public assistance lawyers, Comelec personnel, prosecutors, judges and teachers...must receive an allowance from the city government. All these allowances now total P520 million.

—GEORGE U. RAYALA,
city government officer head I,
Public Affairs and Information
Service Office,
11 Visayas Ave.,
Quezon City Hall, Quezon City

RFID already in use in other countries

FOR LACK OF ARTICULATE ELSE to his the present administration, Ramon Salle has chosen to attack the radio frequency identification (RFID) program of the government in his Oct. 27 column, inaccurately (or what else is new?) that someone pocketed commissions from it.

Salle's unsubstantiated allegations are getting to be tiring and they are assuredly out of place and out of character for a respected paper like Inquirer. What's sad is that he has chosen the RFID, a very noteworthy undertaking, as citizen fodder except that he has been fooling Manila.

The RFID, based on what had been objectively written about it earlier, can be highly cost-effective to solve the problems of car theft, evasion of customs taxing and a myriad of other issues related to fraud in motor vehicle registration.

The system is already in use in many countries and it would be a pity if our adoption of this technology would be derailed or stymied by incumbent based opinions like those peddled by Salle.

As the RFID scanners can easily determine all the relevant information about a passing vehicle, one law enforcers would be better equipped to identify illegally registered vehicles or those belonging to the public utility (owner that are without valid franchises).

So, I think Salle, by assailing the RFID program, is abetting such illegal activities related to motor vehicle registration, knowingly or unknowingly.

—RAVEN SEVA
(ravin.seva@yahoo.com)

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Across the NATION

Antonio Calixto Tony Bergonia

DENR allowed houses in marshland

BAGUIO CITY—THIS SUMMER CAPITAL HAS experienced perennial flooding that has gone worse through time because officials have allowed a former marshland to be populated.

But after Typhoon Ompong dumped heavy rains that submerged four-story houses at the City Camp Lagoon, city officials have started looking for causes of floods in the country's highest city.

In a Wednesday comment hold in the Session Hall, Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials admitted that they had been issuing land titles at the City Camp Lagoon, even though geologists from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) had already identified it as a hazard zone.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said the city government, since the late 1960s, has been using its resources to evacuate residents of City Camp Lagoon since the storm season begins.

In the late 1990s, the city government built a tunnel through Crystal Cave to open a major discharge channel for the Dandowagan that nearing the 5.5-hectare City Camp Lagoon.

But residents, many of whom had to swim to safety during the Gen. Aubrey, denounced that even the channel could be obstructed by piles of garbage.

"In why was (City Camp Lagoon) allowed (to be inhabited) despite reports that it is a geologically hazardous area?" asked Benjamin Magalong, barangay captain of Lourdes Extension, parts of which were inundated, too, by floods from City Camp Lagoon.

Edgardo Bito, officer-in-charge of the city environment and natural affairs (Cenro), said Proclamation No. 232 issued by President Ferdinand Marcos in 1968 compelled his office to allocate lots and issue titles for the City Camp Lagoon.

The proclamation identifies the City Camp Lagoon, Quezon Hill, Hillside and Orosco Pilot Pasture as a reservation area for former squatters, according to retired University of the Philippines history professor Ricardo Dalupan, who studied Baguio land tenure.

Dalupan said politicians had allowed the proclamation area to be encroached upon and were responsible for approving multiple overlapping land claims that continue to haunt the City Camp Lagoon today.

"To this day, many of the squatters (who worked on the steep mountain slopes declared as reservation area) have to leave, (which) (due to their lands, "Dalupan said.

He confirmed this, saying, "We leave it in the hands of barangay officials if they will date or accept the applicants for allocation for the City Camp Lagoon), We are still allocating... We admit that there are lots of applicants for allocation."

Bautista was part of a fact-finding team and Asian group of experts that studied the Baguio-Dagupan Urban Planning Project (BDUPP) to guide officials in the restoration of the summer capital which it was crippled by the 1990 earthquake.

Denise Cabasa with a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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NEWSBRIEFS

■ TAGUDIN CITY

Red tide woes over

THE CITY'S provincial agriculture office has recommended the lifting of a ban on gathering shellfish in Dasay-Salomague bay here.

The ban was imposed after tests done on Sept. 27 showed it was now safe to eat shellfish and other types of seafood from the bay.

But fish toxins were detected on Sept. 11 at Bantay, which is considered a rich fishing ground that provides livelihood to many coastal villages.

Edward said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Ilocos Sur (BFAR) announced the lifting of the ban today.

Joey Calleja, Inquirer Visayas

■ BISAYA, MT. PROVINCE

Very cold in this town

TWO-YEAR OLD Ben recently Caligtan of Bontoc Elementary School in Bontoc town had to throw away the lunch that dropped of water before he finally took a bath on Wednesday morning.

Caligtan, a Grade II pupil, is one of 1,126 students in a Department of Education complex-wide survey to study weather which they dubbed as "extreme."

Delegates joined residents in declaring their blankets at night and early mornings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday when the temperature took surprise as the temperature dropped to single digits.

Residents here are accustomed to cold weather "but the sudden drop in temperature this month was very surprising," said Wilfredo Sallando, an English teacher.

Alice Dacnag, 16, a junior at Angkilang National High School in Bagabag town, said the weather was unusually cold.

The municipal hall, however, does not monitor the temperature.

Sarah Bimpad, medical technologist of the town's rural health center, said a vaccine thermometer to measure how cold it was. At 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, it read 13 degrees Celsius.

Bimpad she hoped it was an accurate reading.

The sudden cold may bred incidents, she said.

"Maybe this is another effect of climate change," she said.

Dahlia Carito, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Gibo gives away cash to 'Frank' victims

CEBU CITY—13 BRIEF, one-time early for almost 2,000 families in municipal island after presidential aspirant Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro ran out of cash for distribution on Thursday.

Teodoro, concurrent chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), made a surprise visit to the island, which is composed of the municipalities of Bantayan, Santa Fe, and Madridejos, to distribute P6.4 million in cash.

Teodoro gave out P6,000 to each family whose house was destroyed and P3,000 to those with damaged homes.

Bantayan Mayor Cecilio Rosario Calderon said Teodoro also distributed P50,000 in cash to families of three who died during Typhoon Frank.

In a program held at the municipal cultural center, Teodoro, assisted by local officials, gave the cash to at least 20 of the 1,000 beneficiaries.

The families were identified through the municipal social welfare offices of the three towns.

Calderon said the assistance came from the NDCC and the Department of Social Welfare and Development in implementing the Teodoro was the one who made the distribution.

She said Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral would not make it in the ceremony.

Calderon said it took time for the cash to be distributed because of bad traps.

At the program, Teodoro, speaking in Cebuano, said he would work with Erap Estrada, Secretary Art Buncan in promoting Bantayan as a premier tourist destination in Asia. *Reporter Magallanes, Inquirer Visayas*

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Relocating mountain folk a tough gov't task

BAGUIO CITY—DISASTER RISK managers are studying how best to convince mountain communities to relocate from inhabitable areas, which their ancestors have resisted for centuries.

The subject was discussed on Tuesday at a National Disaster Coordinating Council meeting that assessed lessons learned from calamities that were triggered by tropical storms last week.

Col. Gregorio Pio Catapang, chief of staff of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, said people living near cliffs would move elsewhere at the first sign of storms, and their return to lands they consider sacred."

But he said long-term solutions to ensure survival require people to move away from all danger zones.

"There has to be more value in lives than in property," he said.

Cordillera mountain villages have always been vulnerable to landslides because there are **near rivers and forests.**

The region is a watershed cradle for Luzon because it is the source of major rivers that flow through La Union, Pangasinan and parts of Central Luzon.

Forests make up 1/4 percent (or 250,000 hectares) of the Cordillera's 1.8-million-hectare land area.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said "about 90 percent of the region is characterized by steep to very steep slopes," in a report delivered before the North Luzon Inter-regional Summit on Water Resources in May.

"Generally, the steeper the slope, the more liable it is to be unstable and more prone to erosion movements," the report said.

The latest scientists, which struck Benguet and Mt. Province on Oct. 8, killed 139 people.

Dilon Lizon, Cordillera director of the Office of Civil Defense, said the Whites and Greenbelt Sectors (MGB) has issued a general outline of potential hazards to all six Cordillera provinces a decade ago but few of these hazards have been addressed.

In her report to Teodoro, Lizon said Typhoon "Pepeng"-related disasters involved districts that have been forewarned by MGB.

Indigenous peoples are not oblivious to the dats that affect their mountain lifestyles, and are now discussing how to address those, said Isabelo Cosalan, a Baguio-Bailed and a city councilor.

Cosalan, chair of the city council's committee on housing, has helped form a Baguio Rules technical committee that will determine reserved land areas in the city.

He said the same group would review how the recent calamities also affected those because many Ibaloi communities are in the city's residents and forest lands.

The city government recently undertook a drive to move settlers away from Baguio watersheds. "To make them leave, government would first have to acknowledge (the indigenous peoples') rights over these lands and their components there," Cosalan said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

ENGINEERS clean up the City Camp Lagoon in Baguio City. Dozens of houses were submerged in 20-foot deep water when Typhoon "Pepeng" dropped the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in the summer capital. CARLOS H. CONJUANGCO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

DAVAO SUR POLITICS

Village execs won't join NP, can't get projects

DIGOS CITY—SOME VILLAGE OFFICIALS in Davao del Sur have voted local cuts the allegedly refused to join the Nacionalista Party (NP).

The president's governor Douglas Cagas, is one of dozens of local allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo who joined the NP to support Sen. Manuel Villar's presidential ambition.

Ines Johnson, village chair of South Lamidan in Don Marcelino town, said a gymnasium supposed to be built in her village was withdrawn by Cagas after she refused to take her oath as an NP member.

She said the gymnasium was soon being put up in South Lamidan, chaired by her sister, Emily Johnson, who agreed to join the NP.

"Her reason was she had taken her oath so that the gymnasium will be given to their village," Johnson said.

Imegracio Mantres, village chair of Tuanown, Sta. Maria, said a gymnasium funded by the provincial government was also supposed to be constructed in his village.

But he said it did not push through because of his political differences with Cagas.

Reached by phone yesterday, Cagas admitted that he did not push through with the construction of the gymnasium in South Lamidan because the village chair does not support his administration.

He said he decided to give it to another barangay, whose chief was supportive of his program.

In the case of Tuanown village in Sta. Maria, Cagas said Mantres had declined the proposed gymnasium because needed political promised to put nine in the village.

"It is still being constructed in Batutanon but as a demand he instead," Cagas said.

He denied allegations that those who did not join the NP were removed from the gymnasium project list.

"For example, the Batutanon gymnasium was offered to Mantres long before village chiefs took their oath under the NP during the recent visit of Senator Manuel Villar," Cagas said.

Cagas said he was not forcing village chiefs to become members of the NP. Orlando B. Dilray, Inquirer Mindanao

Leptospirosis rise alarms execs

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—HEALTH OFFICials here expressed alarm over the increase in the number of leptospirosis cases in flooded provinces after 16 people died in Central Luzon on 07 September.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and health workers were closely watching Pampanga and other Central Luzon provinces, especially flooded villages, following the high number of leptospirosis cases there.

The Department of Health in Central Luzon reported 13 deaths from 117 leptospirosis cases from September to October.

Of the number of cases, 61 are from Nueva Ecija, 22, Bulacan, 21, Tarlac, 9, Pampanga, and 4, Aurora.

Last year, only four leptospirosis cases were reported in the same period.

Duque blamed the floods for the high number of leptospirosis cases. "We cannot control the torrential—especially if flood waters are high," he said.

Health officials asked residents in flood-prone areas to use protective gear, like boots, when wading in flood waters.

Another cause of fever, headache and chills is one of the symptoms of leptospirosis.

In Pangasinan, Dr. Mike Castro, Region 1 Medical Center spokesperson, reported three deaths from leptospirosis in the province between Oct. 13 and 28. Charlene Cayabyab, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Yolando Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

In Baguio, Pacquiao coach peeved at Villar visit

BAGUIO CITY—Alex Ariza, Manny Pacquiao's trainer, left the city for Manila, people were quick to wonder why. The news went to the effect that Pacquiao's coach Freddie Roach had reportedly left Baguio City, Manuel Villar Jr.

Part of HBO's 24/7 presentation of the Pacquiao-Miguel Cotto fight prepared on their match-up is on the Internet. Most controversy blame Villar for encouraging Pacquiao's training.

In the video, Roach said Team Pacquiao should leave Saturday night or after TV phoon Ramil would catch up with them. As it turned out, Pacquiao had to stay in the quiet of The Manor at Camp John Hay here and was hesitant to leave.

While having hard words Villar, Roach appeared (in the last in what HBO 24/7 described as "a standoff that turned severe." Roach told Pacquiao that they had to go. In response to the rumors, Roach denied that if Pacquiao stalled but "cooler heads prevailed."

The last part of the HBO 24/7 feature, where Villar appeared, was shown yesterday in the United States. The HBO crew arrived after Typhoon Pepeng devastated parts of Region CAR. The media-based Team Pacquiao caught in the typhoon. Fearing Pacquiao to swim, not jog, for a few days.

Despite media interviews that they would finish their training at Sharpe Up Boxing Gym in Gonzaga Mall here until Oct. 24, Roach got problems in boxing rights.

The farmers showed Roach and Pacquiao having dinner Saturday night and later talking in Roach's suite about the need to leave the next day.

Roach said, "If we stay here, we have a chance of getting much. On our side, it is better to go to another camp."

Villar turned up Sunday night and the plan to leave seemed delayed. That was when the heated Roach-Villar stand-off happened.

What Pacquiao said Villar discussed was not known, but Villar is known to have pulled all stops in his presidential bid and being seen with the immensely popular Pacquiao would be a plus in his campaign.

Two YouTube versions of that exposition were hurry leaked on Oct. 26. A falsified statement is that the two-time world champion Villar, who, viewers said, "should be in training camp helping others."

Villar is fed here on winning the presidential race and has resorted to intrusive advertisements to help his name carry on it.

He has positioned TV shows such as "Showcase," which become heavily popular, by giving away money to contestants willing to show off their talents, despite undercurrent flaunted as kind of common.

Villar, a real estate mogul who faced a female video investigation by road handling accusation, but also acquired the support of billionaire Inel Pillar Bonifacio, who remained extremely popular despite the deaths of 74 men in the typhoon on Feb. 4, 2006, in a stampede of people trying to get into the shoes.

Villar has also acquired the support of allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo, including Commission on Elections Chairman Jose "Lito" Villaluna Jr.

According to sources in the know about his campaign, Villar has already spent at least P1.5 billion for his presidential bid.

In the HBO 24/7 prequel, the segment on Cotto showed that his training in Puerto was more focused and relaxed. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Villar: It's just a visit to friend

BAGUIO CITY—A spokesperson for Sen. Manuel Villar, standard bearer of the Nacionalista Party, said there was nothing political about Villar's meeting with Pacquiao.

Atty. Amabilia, media liaison officer for Villar, said the meeting was not secret and had no political tone.

"The senator just happened to be there and decided that that was the only time he could ... meet Manny, after a fun good friend," Amabilia said. He became in a telephone interview on Thursday.

Villar has no time to go to Los Angeles where Pacquiao had his (Pacquiao) goodbye show (Bagulio)," the said.

Amabilia said the TV specials tried to make the situation appear otherwise were actually no reason.

"Senator Villar even agreed with Roach that they had to leave that Sunday," she said.

Pacquiao's popularity has driven considera politicians to his side.

Among the most known are Lito "Chavit" Singson, President Macapagal-Arroyo's deputy national security adviser and Jocelyn Bolante, entertainment secretary. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

SCO BAC during Manny Pacquiao during the third day of his training session in Baguio City. His public appearances had become an issue with some members of the club.

NACIONALISTA. Party standard bearer Manuel Villar steps up the steps in Camarines Sur with his partner's governor, Luis "Lito" Villaluna Jr., who recently defected from the administration Lakas party to the NP in a series of defections of allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Villar.

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Comelec: Results of local races out right after polls

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—FORTY EIGHT HOURS

That, according to the Commission on Elections (Comelec), was how quickly winners of local elections could be proclaimed using the precinct count optical scan (PCOS), the machines that would be used in next year's nationwide elections.

James Arthur Jimenez, Comelec spokesperson, said results of local elections would be known a day after the close of elections on May 10 and winners could be proclaimed on May 11.

Proclamations of local election winners, he said, could be done immediately after the results are up.

Municipal, city and provincial boards of canvassers, he said, would proclaim winning local candidates while the National Board of Canvassers could proclaim winning candidates for senators and party-list representatives in 30 hours.

Safeguards are in place to ensure reliable election results, he said as a test bed to demonstrate the use of the voting machines supplied by the joint venture firm Smartmatic.

The two steps in voting under the automated system, he said, are simple.

First, the voter marks the small circle beside the names of the choice candidates in the ballot.

Second, the voter inserts the folded ballot into the machine. As soon as the ballots are fed into the machine, Jimenez said, the machine starts counting the votes.

After the votes are recorded, the machine drops the ballot into a sealed, transparent box attached to the machine.

Jimenez advised voters not to put unnecessary markings on the ballot because this could invalidate their votes.

For example, if a voter shades the circles for two, instead of just one, presidential candidate, his vote for president would be invalidated. But the machine, Jimenez said, would continue counting his vote for senator, congressman and local officials.

As an added safeguard against cheating, canvass would be piggybacked but his vote while being scanned by the counting machine, Jimenez said.

He also explained that the paper ballots locked in the ballot box can still be used for verification if any one or any party questions the machine count.

At the end of the voting on May 10, the machines would print eight copies of the election returns, some of which would be given to watchers of political parties at the precincts, according to Jimenez. Meanwhile, official election returns from COMelec Headquarters.

The results would also be transmitted electronically to secure websites of the Comelec main office, the dominant majority and minority parties, the legislature in their respective regions, Filipinos, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and the citizen-based media-based instruments, Jimenez added.

ONE of 82,200 precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines of Smartmatic that will be used in the 2010 national elections.

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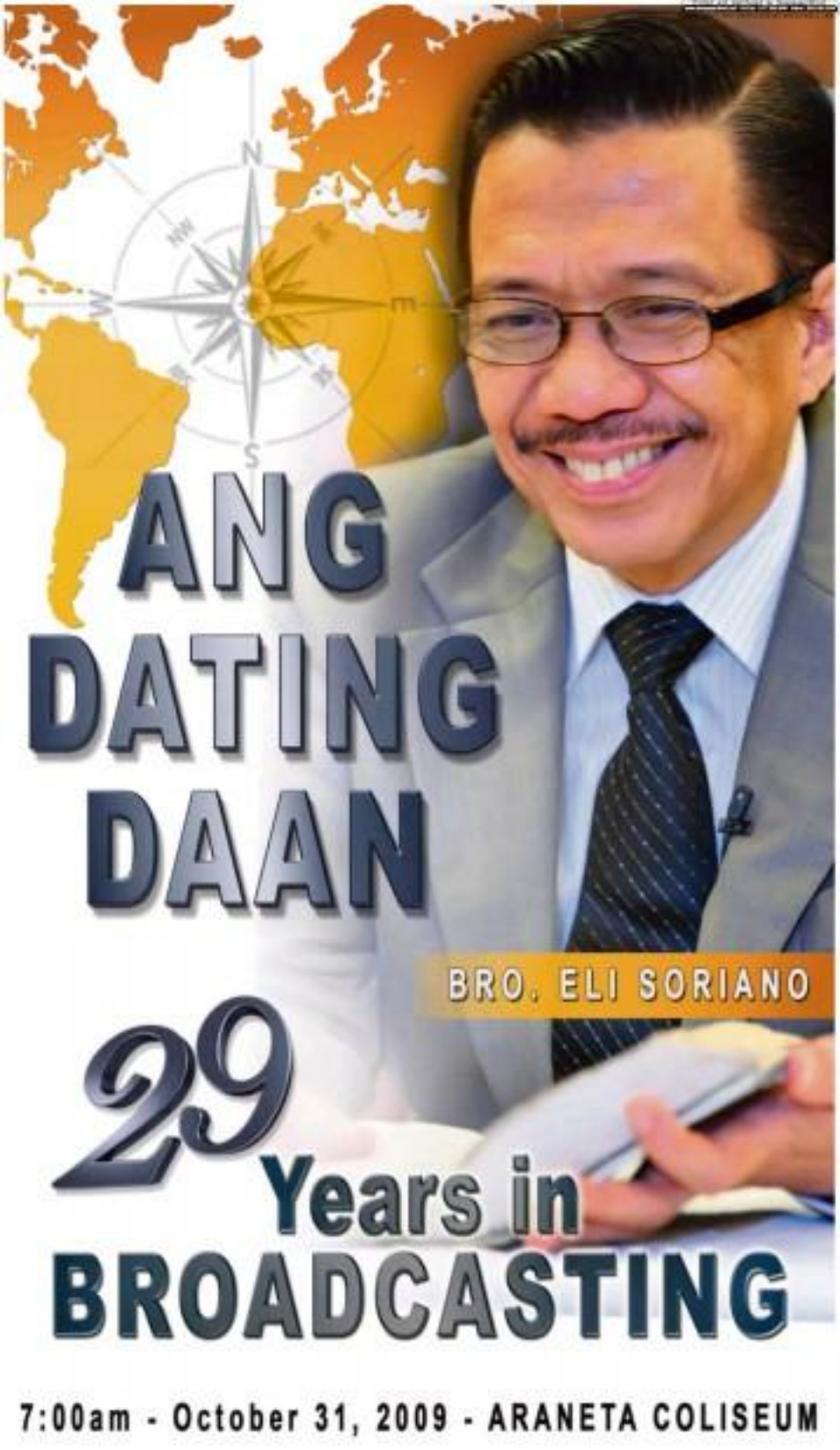
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Townmates want GMA to run, says Palace

From page A1

home province. But at the same time, without conducting her own survey and plan, it has argued that the law does not prohibit Ms Arroyo from seeking another position.

Ms Arroyo is to step down from the presidency on June 30, after a nine-year stint in which her administration was dogged by a string of corruption scandals.

'Just heard it'

Gary Olivar, who speaks for the Palace on economic matters, aired a perspective on the matter: Ms Arroyo feels at home in Pampanga.

But Bajanlo, who usually accompanies the President to her frequent homecomings, admitted that she had not personally witnessed anyone approach Ms Arroyo and tell her she should run for Congress.

"I only heard it from conversations. I've never encountered anybody directly tell the President," she told reporters at a briefing.

Neither could she say what her boss was feeling and thinking about the purported clamor, claiming that the subject had never cropped up in their conversations.

"We don't talk about it," Bajanlo said. But she said that the purported clamor did not fluff Ms Arroyo who, she pointed out, had served in various positions in the government before she became the President.

"I don't see why she should be elated by that. She's been through it all," Bajanlo said.

Asked why she could not see her opinion on Ms Arroyo's political plans, if any, Bajanlo said: "I defer to the wisdom of the President. I have very strong faith in her. I know that whatever decision she makes, it would be for the best for her, for the country and, maybe, for the people of Pampanga."

PREEMPTIVE DEPLOYMENT President Macapagal-Arroyo, flanked by Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, sends off truckloads of emergency relief goods to be prepositioned in areas likely to be hit by Typhoon "Santi." MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Low ratings make it hard for Gibo to get No. 2

From page A1

"Gibo is low in the surveys. That's probably the reason why they don't gravitate toward the administration," said Belmonte, a member of the Lakas Kampi-CMD party's national executive committee.

"You know politicians. They also want to see a winning candidate."

Belmonte described Teodoro as "the most competent and the most preferred by local government executives and by sophisticated voters" among the possible coup d'etat presidential hopefuls.

But such a perception is still apparently not enough to boost Teodoro's ratings.

In the last Social Weather Stations survey conducted on Sept. 18-21, the defense secretary registered a meager 4 percent, which was actually an improvement from his previous 0.6-percent rating. The survey was topped by his second cousin, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Belmonte said he was expecting that discussions over his party's vice presidential candidate would become clearer by the second week of November, at the latest.

The party's national executives, admits Arnold "Arnel" Belmonte, secretary general of Lakas-CMD, is using as standard-bearer in nominations for the 2010 presidential election.

"The situation is just too fluid," Defensor said. "There's no positive identification on who will be [the vice presidential candidate]."

Celebrity like Vilma

Mayor Ramon Guico Jr., president of the 3,499-strong League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), yesterday said his group's executive committee preferred to have Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos as Teodoro's running mate.

The Eraserheon, Pangasinan, mayor said the ruling party needed someone like Santos whom he described as a "celebrity and a crowd-drawer."

"Our preference really is Vilma Santos," Guico told the Inquirer. "She can raise Gibo's popularity. She's had a lot of experience and is a veteran of local government. Gusto [ng mga] mayor."

Guico, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the LMP's executive committee would formally endorse Santos to the party leadership before it's national convention next month.

He said mayors would first talk with Santos, who is on her first term as governor.

Santos earlier announced that she preferred to seek reelection.

Exorcist's tales: 'The hair on my arms stood on end'

From page A1

Tangi, then a freshman priest of the fraternity of St. Paul, saw nothing strange about the house that was inhabited only by his friend's uncle.

But as soon as his friend (let's call him Rey) opened the front door, "it was as cold even with all the windows closed," Tangi said. "The hair on my arms stood on end."

Tangi, Rey and their companions—two women, both college schoolmates of the latter—walked in.

Looking around, the priest noted that there were no religious statues or objects to be seen—something he found odd in a house owned by a Catholic family.

Rey introduced him to the elderly uncle seated on a rocking chair. But the latter's "thoughts seemed somewhere else," the priest said.

Having arranged the body, water and the prayer cards brought by Rey, Tangi put on his stole and opened his book of prayers at the appropriate page.

Moaning

"I started the prayer and I could hear moaning, a male voice, as though in pain. It wouldn't stop," Tangi said.

He and the women exchanged glances anxiously.

Praying aloud, they walked around the house, with the moaning growing louder each time they entered a room.

Recalled Tangi: "It was loudest when we reached the kitchen. I realized it was coming from the refrigerator."

"I didn't know whether to open the ref door or not. What if whatever was moaning leaps out? What if I open a spirit and unravel me or one of my companions?"

Eyes closed but still praying, Tangi grasped the seal of holy water, eyeing the refrigerator door expectantly, and wildly squirted the stuff's contents inside.

He opened his eyes and saw only food and bottles of drinking water.

"I could still hear moaning inside the ref but it was getting fainter. When I opened a card bearing a prayer to the Holy Name of Jesus on the door, it stopped," the priest said.

Rey then asked Tangi to pray over his uncle, who appeared indifferent to what had just transpired.

"I turned behind him and put my hands on his head. I blessed him but I felt that something was very wrong," Tangi said.

No one spoke as he and the others left the house.

With horns and tail

Only after they had gone a considerable distance did Rey disclose why he wanted the house blessed, Tangi said.

Six out of the household's eleven to look after his uncle stayed for more than a few days. The girls complained that the chairs, even slippers, moved by themselves.

The most disturbing detail came from the neighborhood kids who claimed to see "a man with horns and a tail" standing behind his uncle, as if watching TV with him.

Rey also said that as a younger man, his uncle used the house for occult practices involving the use of an Ouija board.

The guests at three gatherings were well-off people, many of whom later suffered bankruptcy or tragic deaths, Rey said.

He said one of them was a well-known socialite whose mysterious murder made headlines in the mid-1980s.

In one session, the group called on the spirit of a man who had committed suicide.

"They asked the spirit, 'Where are you?' And it answered, 'Why are you making me?'" Tangi quoted Rey as saying.

Witnesses said the ghost on the board suddenly flew and smashed into a nearby wall. The furniture moved, as if being shoved around.

Causes of haunting

In his book "Exorcism: Encounters with the Supernatural and the Occult," Fr. Jose Francisco C. Syquia mentioned the "presence of demonic power" of a "haunted" house.

"Occult and sinful activities" may lead "evil spirits" to find "a spiritual opening," said Syquia, the director of the Office of Exorcism of the Archdiocese of Manila.

Listed among the "major reasons" that, according to Syquia, lead to the demonic possession of a place are "Ouija board, tarot cards, spell casting and the like."

"Unless these activities are stopped, repented sin and dealings with the occult can allow these spirits to have even more dominion within the home, as well as attract more evil spirits," he warned.

Syquia said simple house blessings "do not suffice to drive ... away" spirits who had attached themselves to houses used for occult activities.

He said a haunting could also have a spiritual cause: "Someone died, was killed, or committed suicide in the house and now needs prayers, sacrifices and Masses."

In this case, family and friends can help by frequently offering prayers and Masses for the deceased, he said.

Protocol for exorcism

There is a protocol for the exorcism or deliverance of a house.

Tangi said a priest "has to fast, go to confession, and be the grace of God, by his/her own to sin before the exorcism."

Fr. Jude Rebaldo of the Diocese of Balibo said that for an exorcism to succeed, the house owners must also be active participants.

"They need to exhibit the desire to put an end to the haunting. The initiative to cleanse the house must come from them," he said.

Rebaldo said the house owners must also go to confession before the exorcism.

Vulnerable to retaliation

"The Holy Rosary is an effective protection. They must implore the help of Maria Mary and recite deliverance prayers addressed to the archangels, particularly St. Michael and St. Gabriel for protection," he said, adding:

"This is because the owners who want to get rid of unholy spirits become vulnerable to retaliation."

In the case of the Macabebe-ong house, Tangi said he was told beforehand "I did not feel bad because I was thinking it was a simple house blessing."

Asked what he thought moved him despite his unpreparedness, Tangi said: "I was nearly ordained then, so perhaps I was very confident and still full of grace. Remember that I was armed only with a prayer book, my stole, holy water and the prayer cards brought by Rey[."]

Better prepared

In 2008, Tangi was better prepared for another exorcism, this time of a house built on a scenic mountain ridge that also served as a venue for Ouija sessions.

"When the host-owner died, he was buried in the property. That's a no-no because Catholics are supposed to be buried in a sacred place," Tangi said.

The heirs restored the property converted into a tourist house.

"And for good reason," Tangi said. "It is a beautiful, three-level property with good architecture, overlooking the ridge, with a lawn and trees."

An aunt of the heirs asked Tangi to bless the house.

"She admitted that there were spirits causing disturbances. The house was uninhabited for the longest time. Nobody wanted to stay. The caretakers left their something unseen was always keeping watch, especially when they sleep," Tangi said.

"Even visitors approached the house's tenancy and architectural design, but they felt ill at ease," he said.

The priest, the priest went to confession, fasted, and recited prayers of protection, particularly to St. Michael and Padre Pio, the Capuchin monk adored as stalwart demonic oppression.

3 p.m. prayers

Tangi chose to begin at 3 p.m., deemed the Hour of Great Mercy.

Everyone gathered around the dining table that stood at the center of the main floor.

"When I started with the prayers, we heard the sound of cabinet opening and closing," he said.

Everything went well until Tangi reached the part of Pope Leo's exorcism prayer to St. Michael that commands "unclean spirits, all satanic powers, all infected invaders, all wicked legions, assemblies and sects" out of the house "in the Name and by the Power of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Suddenly, a dinner plate on the table shattered.

"The shards went flying!" Tangi said. "Nobody got hurt so I continued praying, but I was worried that another plate might explode and hurt someone. The atmosphere was ominous. I was scared."

But Tangi went on to finish the prayers and the rest is "nothing unusual happened."

Invitation to the devil

He led everyone in a walk around the house, sprinkling holy water and urging them to sing prayers to "ensure their spirits."

Tangi made a follow-up visit after a week. The caretakers said they no longer felt uneasy.

But a priest who came with him advised the latter to remove an abstract painting displayed in the living room.

"It was predominantly black and red. The other priest said the painting was actually an invitation to the devil," Tangi said. The heirs immediately complied.

Blessed objects

Syquia warned against calling on "agents of supernatural"—such as arbularyos, hypnotherapists, spiritists—to exorcise a house.

Quoting the Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, he said: "[If] the foreigners of the house should happen to make use of superstitious means condemned by the Church to rid themselves of the curse, they error, though neither knowing it perhaps, lose communication with the powers of darkness, which does acquire fresh strength."

Syquia prescribed "blessed objects, like crucifixes on the door of every room, and the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary at the front part of the house."

"The members that the house belongs to God," he said, adding that the family's daily praying of the rosary would also help in atmosphere of peace.

Filipina killed in Kabul hailed as peace worker

AN EYE/PHOTOGRAPH Since Dec. 15, 2009, Filipino canine handler Mel Calangian plays with dog Carlos (left) trained for antinarcotic detection and Tiger (right) for explosive detection at the security screening area of Kandahar Airport in southern Afghanistan while a U.S. Army soldier looks on. AFP/MARTY ALCID

From page A1

the guest house.

Kito, 40, was killed when Islamist gunmen stormed the Bakhtar Guest House where she and other UN staff members were staying, spraying the small hotel with gunfire and detonating grenades before killing themselves.

Kito was married with two children, aged 14 and 11. She was a former school teacher who also worked as an electoral officer and civic education officer in the Philippines before serving as a UN volunteer in Liberia, East Timor and Nepal.

She was among eight Filipinos working as UN volunteers in Afghanistan.

Ban on OFWs

Kito had been in Afghanistan for just over a year and was working with the United Nations Development Program's Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Democratic Governance (ELECT) project—the primary effort through which the international community supports the elections in Afghanistan.

Besides Kito, the four UN staff members killed were from Ethiopia, Illinois, Liberia and the United States. Nine people—several of in the attack suffered security cuts and bruises as they tried to escape.

There are about 1,500 Filipino workers in Afghanistan, including 500 in the capital Kabul and 1,000 in the southern part of the country.

The Philippines has imposed a ban on Filipinos working in Afghanistan since December 2007. International organizations, workers and diplomatic staff are exempted from the ban.

Crucible of gunfire

The assault on the guest house began shortly before 8 a.m. when three gunmen wearing green uniforms and suicide vests broke into the three-story residential hotel.

The cyclists of gunfire echoed across the city and sent panicked residents fleeing the building. Hiding the lobby and the upper floors with smoke. Terrified UN workers scrambled over the roof to leapfrog from rooftops to escape.

About 2 kilometers away from the guest house, one worker struck the "worst fear" of the presidential palace but caused no casualties. Two more workers sustained into the grounds of the Kabul University, but were saved by foreigners, filling the lobby with smoke and leaving guests and employees to take refuge in the basement.

The Filipino rescuer who survived the assault was able to get out of the guest house during the attack. She, DFA spokesperson, Ambassador Secretary Romeo Brawner Jr. said.

She was medically evaluated and observed by under the care of the UNSF medical office in Kabul, Malaya said.

RP aka grieves

Malaya said the DFA was withholding the survivor's identity for "reasons of privacy." She said among the 26 UN workers in the guest house were the other nationals.

"The Philippine government condemns the terrorist attack perpetrated against UN personnel in Kabul that claimed the life of [name], Kito ... and those of five other colleagues," the DFA said in a statement.

"The Filipino nation joins her bereaved family and friends in mourning the loss of this Filipina, a dedicated worker for peace," it added.

The Philippines, according to the DFA, "calls on the international community to condemn this latest terrorist outrage."

"The Philippines ... takes deep pride in all Filipinos serving in the United Nations or officials, peacekeepers, specialists, staff members and volunteers wherever they may be," the DFA said.

4th Filipino killed

Philippine Ambassador to the United Nations Hilario Davide Jr. said the executive coordinator of the UN Volunteers program, Flavia Pansieri, had ordered condolences to the families of Kito and the other UN nationals.

"[They] dedicated their knowledge and experience as volunteers to support the people of Afghanistan. As volunteers, they demonstrated a true commitment to the cause of peace and development and their sacrifice will not be forgotten," Davide quoted Pansieri as saying.

Kito was the fourth Filipino killed in terrorist attacks against the United Nations in recent years.

In 2003, Sandra Duncan-mora, a staffer of the UN Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, was killed in the suicide car bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad.

Last year, Gene Lura, a staffer of the World Food Programme, was killed in the same car bombing of UN offices in Afghanistan.

Another Filipina, Personnel Officer of the United Nations Children's Fund, was among the victims in a bomb attack on a hotel housing international workers in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Kito's death came five years after Angelo Mojica, a Filipino UN volunteer working in the 2004 Afghan elections, was kidnapped in Kabul and held for three weeks by the Taliban.

Lockdown ordered

The assault underscored the risks facing UN and Afghan officials in organizing a runoff election following the final, marred first round vote Aug. 20. And the massive challenge by the US-led military here in curbing the determined Taliban insurgency.

The attack demonstrated the ease with which Taliban militants can penetrate the relative safety of Kabul. A Taliban spokesperson told the attack was aimed at undermining the Nov. 7 presidential election runoff.

UN spokesperson Aleem Siddiqui said at least nine UN staff members who survived the assault on the guest house would be transferred to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

UN staff on 'lockdown'

The United Nations has ordered its employees to remain "on lockdown," with their movements restricted. A UN staffer said that normal post-staff were staying home.

An internal UN memo ordered restrictions on movement for the rest of the week and said UN officials in Kabul would be reviewing bids of critical and nonessential personnel, suggesting some people may be moved out of the country for their own safety.

The Aug. 19, 2003, truck bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, which killed 22 people, prompted the United Nations to pull out of Iraq for several years.

An umbrella group of more than 300 local and international aid agencies called aid organizations in Afghanistan "have been subject to increasing numbers of attacks, threats and intimidation by both insurgent and criminal groups."

Wednesday's violence brought the number of aid workers killed in Afghanistan this year to at least 23, the group said.

The runoff election pits President Hamid Karzai against former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and Washington sees it as crucial in restoring legitimacy to the executive dulled government. With reports from AP and AFP

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JOHN CHRISTOPHER TURNER, an American, works through the bullet-riddled gate of the Bakhtar guest house as he recovers his personal items from the premises in Kabul on Oct. 30, 2009. Turner, 62, who works for an Afghan truck transport company, led most guests to safety as the fought off attackers with a Kalashnikov rifle during a two-hour gunfight with Taliban suicide gunmen that left six security and UN staff dead. The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it is the first step in a campaign against the upcoming second round runoff in the presidential elections. AFP/HOSHANG HASHIMI

IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH taken Oct. 4, 2009, a group of Filipino war boot walks in front of a US Army armored vehicle in Kandahar military base in southern Afghanistan. AFP/BOB STRONG

TOKYO HONEYMOON Sen. Mar Roxas and Korina Sanchez head for their flight to Japan on the first stage of a honeymoon—the second part will be during the Christmas break—after what was billed as the Wedding of the Year on Tuesday, which was celebrated live. ERWIN GOMEZ

Taliban threaten more attacks

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—THE TALIBAN vowed on Thursday to intensify its attacks in the buildup to next week's runoff presidential election after an attack on a guest house for foreigners in Kabul.

"We'll intensify our attacks in the coming days. We'll disrupt the elections," Taliban spokesperson Yousuf Ahmadi said by telephone from an undisclosed location. "We have new plans and tactics for attacks to disrupt the elections."

Attacks by the Taliban, toppled by US-led forces in late 2001, were a major deterrent to voters in the first round of the election on Aug. 20, when turnout in some provinces was as low as 5 percent.

Almost 200 violent incidents around the Aug. 20 vote were attributed to the Taliban, including assassinations of fingers marked with purple ink as proof of voting, and rocket and grenade attacks on polling stations.

Runoff poll Nov. 7

The Afghan defense ministry has claimed the Taliban were not in a position to carry out attacks on such a scale in the countdown to runoff elections on Nov. 7, arguing they had not the time to prepare for such an offensive.

But Ahmadi said Wednesday's assault on the guest house in Kabul, which left at least five foreign UN staff members dead, showed that President Hamid Karzai's government could not prevent attacks.

"Their measures are not effective against our operations and tactics," he said.

"We launch our attacks after assessing every single attack based on the situation on the ground. The attack on the UN guesthouse was a good example." AFP

COURTESY CALL Pier Luigi Foschi, chair and CEO of Costa Crociere, Europe's No. 1 cruise company, pays a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. Foschi reiterated the company's commitment to win more Filipino workers and help make the Philippines a popular cruise destination for its cruise ships. About 5,000 of its workforce are Filipino. Magsaysay Shipping Lines is its manning agent in the Philippines. PPD

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DID YOU KNOW

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Cyril L. Boudreau, Inquirer Research

VEHICLE LEFT PARKED IN FRONT OF BAYAN MUNA OFFICE IN QC

Solon loses car to thieves

By Julie M. Aurelio

A PARTY-LIST CONGRESSman's personal car—his only vehicle, in fact—was stolen while it was parked in front of the Bayan Muna office in Quezon City yesterday.

Raul Castrodes, the driver and bodyguard of Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño, said he discovered the theft at around 7 a.m., hours before he was supposed to fetch the congressman at the airport.

"I got up early because I was planning to wash the car because my boss is set to arrive from the US today. But when I looked outside to check, the car was gone," he told the Inquirer.

According to Castrodes, he left the car—a blue green 1997 Toyota Corolla with plate number UUT 120—the night before on the sidewalk in front of the militant group's office at 40-42 7th St. in Barangay West Kamias, Quezon City.

Immediately after discovering the theft, Castrodes went to the Anonas police station to ask for help.

The police later referred the case to the Quezon City Police District's motor theft unit headed by Senior Insp. Rodolfo Mayuga.

Mayuga said the Bayan Muna had also already issued an alert for the missing vehicle.

Castrodes, 32, told the police that he left the car at around 5 p.m. in front of the Bayan Muna office since there was already another vehicle parked in the garage.

"When he got up at 5 a.m. yesterday, the car was already gone.

"So far so I can recall, there were books and other personal effects of my boss inside the car, including the number 'G' plate issued to him by the House of Representatives," he added.

"I already told our chief of staff, Iwaya Josef Evangelista, about the theft and he has been relayed to my boss. My problem now is how to reach my boss from the airport because he's due to arrive [tonight]," Castrodes said.

Colmenares was in the United States to attend a conference of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers.

Number coding lifted on Nov. 2

By Allison W. Lopez

THE NUMBER CODING SCHEME FOR VEHICLES will be lifted on Monday, Nov. 2, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Oscar Orbos announced yesterday.

Fernando said they wanted to implement during the "Undas Kalakasan" interagency contingency plan to ensure the smooth flow of traffic in the vicinity of cemeteries.

"Undas Kalakasan" will involve the MMDA Traffic and Transport Management Office, Philippine National Police, Traffic Enforcement Group and local government units.

Fernando said the MMDA would deploy more than 1,200 traffic enforcers to all major thoroughfares starting on Saturday to manage traffic and ensure the safety of commuters and pedestrians. They will also provide assistance to the public in road emergency cases, he added.

4 men shot dead in Quezon City by armed group

By Julie M. Aurelio

A FATHER AND HIS SON, along with two men visiting the pair in their Quezon City home, were shot by heavily armed men yesterday morning.

Rodolfo Abrogar, his son Michael, Jun Rider and a man only identified as "Jun" were found dead inside 931 San Pascual Street in Barangay Commonwealth by neighbors.

Police said around two to five men with shotguns and M-14 rifles carried out the attack at around 10 a.m., while the victims were chatting inside the living room.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Florante Jr. of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said two men fired at the four men from the open door of the house, based on the recollection of Marvic Eliset, the eldest Mabagat's daughter.

Fearful for her life, she ran to her children upstairs while the shooting went on.

"They didn't say anything before firing and just began shooting. After that, I heard them say 'Clear!' three times before they fled," Eliset said.

PO2 Jaime Jimenez and PO2 Rodel Tumangday, case investigators, said neighbors recalled seeing around five armed men, although Eliset said she saw only two men.

Eliset said her father and brother visited her yesterday morning to get some of Mabagat's pants to spruce up the scene of their dead in time for All Souls' Day on Nov. 2.

"I was about to give them the pants when I heard the shots," Eliset said, adding that her three children scrambled to safety on the second floor.

Eliset's husband, Jaymark, was also talking with the victims inside the living room when the armed men began their attack.

Jaymark was able to hide inside the toilet, but he himself saw how after the assailants left, she said. Eliset added that like her father and brother, her husband also had no known enemies.

Barangay officials and residents were hosting a gamefair inside the house, which fortunately did not explode as the pin was not dislodged from the explosive device.

"We have not come up with any conclusion for the killings," the police official said. "The neighbors are afraid to talk and the shotguns, who were readers in Mandaluyong City, allegedly didn't have any enemies."

Meanwhile, barangay officials in Mandaluyong said they were also informed of a similar incident in several matching features in Mandaluyong two years ago, but added that this had no bearing on the killings of the

GETTING READY FOR THE CROWD
A man paints rows of tombs in the Barangka Cemetery in Mandaluyong City. EDDY PALANSAN

Jennylyn's ex-PA nabbed by police for theft charges

THE FORMER PERSONAL assistant of actress Jennylyn Mercado was arrested yesterday morning by police after a hotel court issued an arrest warrant against her for qualified theft.

Rowena Pedernales, 30, was held under the custody of the Quezon City Police District's Police Intelligence Operations Unit (DPIOU) following her arrest in San Mateo, Rizal province, according to DPIOU head Supt. Marcelino Pedernales Jr.

Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 77 presiding Judge Florencio Gratela earlier issued a warrant of arrest for Pedernales after the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office charged Pedernales with qualified theft, although it dismissed falsification charges against her.

Pedernales allegedly used P400,000 in checks belonging to Mercado.

No bail was recommended for the suspect, Quezon City, according to the indictment signed by Assistant City Prosecutor Arleen Tagaban.

Mercado, however, filed a motion for reconsideration seeking an additional charge of falsification of commercial documents against Pedernales for allegedly issuing checks belonging to the actress.

But in a motion filed in court, Pedernales's counsels said these checks were not involved in the preparation of Mercado's checks and their deposits or encashment and the payment of utility bills, office supplies and salaries. Julie M. Aurelio

Safety college staff refuse to leave

By Allison W. Lopez

EMPLOYEES OF THE PHILIPPINE Public Safety College (PPSC) in San Bonifacio, Tagaytay City, yesterday vowed to stand guard to prevent a demolition team from tearing down the facility.

Pasdilyn Talpilandis, spokesperson of the PPSC Employees Association, said they would block the road leading to the school to stop the demolition team from bringing in their heavy equipment.

"We will stand our ground in the absence of a court order. There is no urgency to evacuate," he said in an interview.

The Department of Interior and Local Government earlier ordered the PPSC, which conducts mandatory training for police officer and jail personnel, to move out by Nov. 15 and relocate to a temporary site in Laguna.

The PPSC composed houses the National Police College and National Forensic Science Training Institute.

While they were amenable to transferring to a suitable relocation site, the school's 200 workers were strongly opposed to being evicted from the place like squatters, Talpilandis said.

"We are not informal occupants" as the National Police Commission (Napolcom) has claimed in its letter," he added.

Of the 7.1-hectare property in San Bonifacio owned by Napolcom, PPSC occupies 3.8 ha. In 2005, Napolcom and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority signed a joint venture agreement with a consortia of Megaworld Corp., Empire Land Holdings Inc. and First Gemtex Inc. for the development of the property.

Different temporary relocation sites had been offered to PPSC but these were rejected because they were considered too small for the facility's training requirements.

No liquor, weapons or kites in Manila's cemeteries

By Tina G. Santos

GOING TO THE CEMETERY? Leave those alcoholic drinks and sticks at home.

In fact, any form of liquor, sound system, bladed and deadly weapons—even gambling paraphernalia and kites—will be banned at graveyards, as officials of Manila's largest cemetery reminded the public yesterday.

Manila North Cemetery officer in charge Owen Tanumdang said policemen, barangay tanods, barangay officials and security officers would be checking people's bags or thinking them to make sure that none of the prohibited items are brought inside.

"This is not the time to get drunk, this is not the time for gambling, sing-along and flying kites. Let us (observe) the (solemnity) of the occasion," he said.

At the same time, Tanumdang reminded the public that private vehicles would not be allowed inside the cemetery.

Rerouting scheme

A rerouting scheme will also be implemented near the cemetery, according to traffic chief Supt. Rodolfo Vigo.

Starting at 9 p.m. tomorrow and ending the following week will be temporarily closed to traffic the stretch of Aurora Boulevard from Dimasalang to Blas Ople, Bicentennial from A. Bonifacio to P. Guevarra, Dimasalang from Mabini to Bicentennial, Bataan from Dimasalang to Bicentennial Extension, P. Guevarra from Carlos to Barangay and Lerma Rivera from Carlos to Aurora Boulevard.

All vehicles bound for North Cemetery and coming from Aurora Boulevard or Bicentennial should take Carlos, turn right on Lerma Rivera or Bagong, then make a right on Antipolo.

Those coming from Quezon City may turn left on Bicentennial and left on Mabini.

Meanwhile, the streets of Cuneta, Dilimon, Felix Huertas, Ayala, Gregorio and Montoya will be designated as parking areas, Vigo said.

Vehicles bound for La Loma and Chinese cemeteries and coming from Espeña should take R. H. Lanuza, Tayuman, Blumentritt then Carriedo to Aurora Boulevard and turn on Rizal Avenue or Jose Abad Santos.

Vehicles coming from Quiapo, Sta. Cruz, Tondo and Caloocan can take Jose Abad Santos or Rizal Avenue eastbound.

All vehicles coming from Caloocan and Quezon City going to North Harbor can take C-3 toward Jose Abad Santos or Radial Road. Those going to South Harbor should take D. Tuazon or Maysan Street toward Sapulpa 6-11, Lawton or Delpan.

Vehicles coming from the north which are bound for North, La Loma and Chinese cemeteries should take Rizal Avenue from Rizal.

Medical teams

The Manila health department, meanwhile, will deploy two medical teams with ambulance in both the North and South cemeteries from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. Disabled persons or the elderly can avail themselves of ambulance, he said.

Dr. Marie Lorraine Sanchez, the city health chief, encouraged senior citizens to observe environment-friendly by bringing their own garbage bag or throwing their waste into trash cans.

At the same time, the Manila Police District urged the public to be wary of criminal elements who might take advantage of the occasion.

RAGING FIRE
A fireman is silhouetted against a burning row of houses on Quezon's Wood corner Apolito Streets in Barangay Del Monte, Quezon City, at dawn Thursday. RAFFY LERMA

Ex-newsmen needs help

EDITH PANGILINAN LAGAREJE, a resident of Pasay City, is in need of financial assistance.

Lagareje, 56, used to be a news writer. She also worked as an editor and feature writer for several newspapers, including the Inquirer. Last year, she suffered a stroke that paralyzed the left side of her body.

Since then, she has been continuously taking medications in the hopes of regaining her strength but to no avail. Aggravating her condition are diabetes and hypertension.

Due to her condition, she has been unable to work and she is running out of money to sustain her. She can no longer afford physical therapy on a regular basis and she remains wheelchair-bound.

Right now, she needs money to undergo laboratory tests on her blood, lipids and heart. Kindhearted readers who want to get in touch with her can call 851-0944 or 0918-8985566. Donations can be routed through Lagareje's Citi Money Bank account 3020314-01760-4 at Shangri-La Mall Mandaluyong City branch.

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METRO BRIEFS

Irate voters threaten Comelec officials

POLLCLERKS have been deployed to the Commission on Elections office in Valenzuela City after two employees complained that some irate voters took their disenfranchised names there. Jessica Sicat, Namfrel lobby officer, said they received the complaints on Monday. Lawyer Patrick Crispo and Emmanuel Mallonca, he said that based on Namfrel's and Mallonca's observations, some people who moved to the area long time for their formerly registered became angry and threatened their poll clerks. She said the police would put up a temporary desk at the Comelec office to ensure peace and order and to prevent petty crimes like snatching and theft.

Sherry F. Ferrygal

Work at Manila City Hall only half-day today

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday announced that City Hall employees would only be half-day today. "This is aimed at giving the employees longer time to prepare for the observance of the yearly 'Undas.' Majority of them will be going to the provinces; this will be pursuant to the Memorandum Circular 030 their destinations early, especially those who have to travel by sea or air," Lim said. He added that normal operations of City Hall would resume on Tuesday. Tina G. Santos

NBI files raps vs printing firm's employee

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed charges against an employee of a printing firm who allegedly embezzled over P200,000.

Charged with qualified theft at the Valenzuela City Prosecutor's Office was Pedrito Virgilio Jr., employee of Mega Jeeda Printing, and a resident of Malinta district, Valenzuela City. The case was referred from the complaint filed by Mega Jeeda Printing Inc., which was represented by its accounting supervisor, Ms. Joanne Portillo. Investigation conducted by the NBI Special Task Force showed that part of the job of the respondent, who was an accounting matter assigned at the firm's credit and collection section, was to keep post-dated checks submitted by the collectors and sales agents of the company to the cashier. Upon the checks' maturity, the respondent allegedly deposited the checks in the cashier for deposit into the company's account. The NBI said that in August when the company decided to computerize unused dated checks it received, the respondent refused, saying it would only make work harder for him. They prompted the computerized to verify the company's accounts with its clients. She found out that some clients had already settled their accounts by paying post-dated checks which were not deposited in the company's accounts, but went to the respondent's account instead. Tina G. Santos

Richest dead celebrity? It's not Michael Jackson

NEW YORK—According to Forbes magazine, the richest dead celebrity isn't Michael Jackson.

Although the King of Pop's estate has been big news since his death in June, the top-earning dead celebrity is French fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent. Forbes released its ninth annual poll on Wednesday.

According to the magazine, Laurent earned $350 million in the past year. Much of his estate was auctioned off at Christie's in February. Laurent died of brain cancer in June 2008.

Rapper Rodgers and Dixie Hammerstein took second with combined earnings of $225 million, followed by Jackson with $90 million, Elvis Presley with $55 million and J.R.R. Tolkien with $50 million. (Dottie Schuck, John Lennon, Theodor Geisel, Albert Einstein and Michael Crichton rounded out the top 10 list. AP

FASHION designer Yves Saint Laurent stands outside the London branch of his store in this photo taken on Sept. 18, 1969. AP

UN calls for an end to US embargo on Cuba

UNITED NATIONS—The UN General Assembly called overwhelmingly on Wednesday on US President Barack Obama's administration to end Washington's Cold War-era trade embargo against Cuba.

The vote the 18th year running, that the UN General Assembly reached out US trade restrictions on the communist-ruled island.

The nonbinding vote was backed by 187 countries, including from Latin America's neighbors of Cuba to members of the European Union and other close US allies.

Only Israel and tiny Palau supported the United States, while Micronesia and the Marshall Islands abstained.

The margin of opposition in the US embargo has grown steadily since 1992, when 59 countries voted in favor of the resolution. The figure was 179 in 2004, 182 in 2008, 185 in 2007, and 187 last year.

The embargo was imposed nearly five decades ago at the height of the Cold War when Cuba was a Soviet client state.

Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla called the embargo "an absurd policy that causes sensitive and real damage. It is a cruel, flagrant and systematic violation of human rights."

He told the General Assembly that despite signs of a "dialogue from since Obama's election last year "there has not been any change in the implementation of the economic, commercial and financial blockade."

However, the US ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, dismissed the "painfully familiar debate."

"Our favorable language we have just heard from the Foreign minister of Cuba seems straight out of the Cold War era and is not conducive to constructive progress," she said.

Rice said Washington was offering Havana "a new chapter" in their relations but had so far received no answer.

She rejected assertions that the US embargo was responsible for Cuba's crushing poverty, blaming the near permanent economic crisis in the country on government control over the economy and society.

"There are many things the government of Cuba could do," she said. "Restrictive measures could include liberating the hundreds of prisoners of conscience in Cuba's jails [and] ... demonstrating greater respect for freedom of speech."

The US economic, trade and financial sanctions were imposed 47 years ago following the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of the Caribbean island nation by US-backed Cuban exiles. AFP

Obama delivers on hate crimes

WASHINGTON—FOR THIS ACcomplishment, President Barack Obama might want more pebbles.

There was a bill signing at a wooden desk set up in the East Room, with the media invited, followed by a reception for lawmakers, champagne sipping supporters and an address to them, again, from the East Room.

Obama was bumping a campaign promise to pass and to have in pushing his signature on a bill to include violence against homosexuals in federal hate crimes law.

Of several such commitments to gay and lesbian supporters, it's the dilute-the-least-bigotry promise we either prodding or mulled entirely, proving a source of continued dismay for gay and lesbian advocates who worked to help him get elected.

As a candidate, Obama promised to end the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that bars homosexuals from serving openly in the military. He pledged to work to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act, which limits how states, local and federal bodies can recognize partnerships and debenture benefits. He also promised to end unequal treatment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Nine months into his term, those promises aren't chasm being met.

Vicky Gentile phased by Pelosi-Reid's signing ceremony, Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said there is still a lot of work to be done.

The stipended has now also covers chicken confirmed by gunner identity or throbbing.

"Service in America should never be afraid to work down the street holding the hundred like person that love. No one in America should be forced to lock over their shoulder because of who they are or how they love with a disability," Obama said, referring to Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr., for whom the law is named.

Shepard was a gay Wyoming college student murdered in 1998; Byrd was a black man chained to a pickup truck by three white men and dragged to his death in east Texas that year. AP

After bombing, devastated Pakistan city asks why

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN—Frightened Pakistanis bolted out on Thursday against the indiscriminate slaughter of civilians in their conservative Muslim city, where insecurity is partly long-ordinary life.

Police rushed one pushed with explosives blew up on Wednesday in a narrow street of the Meena market, known locally as the women's bazaar, dismembering shops and killing 105 people.

Many of those killed were women hunting for bargains with their children among the plowboys of female clothing concessions.

Within seconds, flames tore through the wooden structures of buildings, tightly packed with textiles and clothes shops, engulfing the market in a massive fire that took hours to control.

Bodies were ripped to shreds. Charred limbs littered the street, some unrecognizable and spent near almost palpable across the city of Peshawar—the same only city group that dominates the ranks of the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban.

In 30 days, more than 150 people were injured in most-to-last-place bombings in Peshawar, turning a love affair for a city left by millions of Pakistani Pashtuns into fear over a worsening wave aimed towards mass-civilian bombings.

Basir Khan, 52, and his 22-year-old son Bilal, were sitting in their clothing shop when the explosion killed, plunging them finally who had migrated from the tribal hinterland into grief and despair.

"It's the first time I understood what grief is. I don't think I will ever see such grief in my whole life," Mr. Khan said my brother, both of them dead. Can you imagine? I'll see what they did wrong?" said a weeping Jamil Nasir.

Piles of bombs, suicide attacks and the killing of innocent people has become routine in Peshawar, where militants' ultimatums have been paralyzed by shuttered schools while traffic jams ensuing war and families avoid markets.

Seven attacks in four months have battered the historic old city, which in the past was a tourist attraction and a trade center and leading capital made rich by the silk road ending near its store.

"People are now really worried. Living in this city is a disaster," downtown shopkeeper Mohammad Amin said.

"Everyone is worried about the future, his own future, his children's future and about the future of his business. Business is down to the brink of collapse," he added.

Peshawar suffers from its location on the edge of a rebel belt thick with Taliban and al-Qaida extremists—groups branded the most dangerous foes in the world by US officials and the backbone of terrorist plots on the West. AFP

US sees global rise in makeshift bombs

WASHINGTON—American military officers are expressing concern over the spreading use of makeshift bombs beyond the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan to other countries in the region, as well as in East Asia and South America.

Improvised explosive devices, as the military calls them, have been the largest killer of American forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, dwarfing up with devastating effect in Pakistan and India, but also with less success in Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Colombia, Somalia and parts of North Africa.

Even Russian security forces have used the devices to bedevil rebels and Dagestan, all through attacks in Chechnya have fallen.

"There is a robust and constant IED effort among violent extremists who are using it in their weapon of choice," said Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, the director of the Pentagon's organization in charge of combating ways to counter improvised explosives. "That won't change for decades. We are on the fight for a long time."

Metz, who will discuss the spread of improvised bombs during testimony on Thursday before a House Armed Services subcommittee, said global IED cases outside of Iraq and Afghanistan average about 200 per month. The count includes both detonations and the discovery of intact devices. The military's global statistics on the bombs remain classified, in order to prevent extremists from knowing what the United States knows. But a compilation of news articles from around the world underscores the threat.

Metz, who will retire from the military in coming weeks, acknowledged that while the public's eye focused on the threat the bombs pose against American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, part of his mission is to dissolving the risk of spreading improvised bombs was to argue for continued funding to his organization's work on countering them. AFP

Google's free GPS cell phones pose a threat to stand-alones

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.—GPS navigation devices were the latest must-have tech toy just two years ago, and dozens of device makers like Garmin and TomTom were cheering.

That didn't last long. In a turnabout that has been remarkable even for the fast-moving technology business, those companies have suffered as competition has pulled down prices—and as more people have turned to their cell phones for directions.

In the latest blow to the business, Google announced a free navigation service for mobile phones on Wednesday that will offer turn-by-turn directions, live traffic updates and the ability to recognize voice commands. The service will initially be available on only one phone, the new Motorola Droid, but will be expanded to more phones soon.

Google said that the service can be supported by advertisements in the future. That would make dazzling directions the latest form of information to shift from being used sparingly to one that is ubiquitous.

Greg Sterling, principal of Sterling Market Intelligence, said the move would be comparable to like TomTom and Garmin, along with the cell phone carriers, which offer navigation services by subscription. NYT

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region III – Metro Clay

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
FOR THE SUPPLY OF HANDLING SERVICES IN NFA-REGION III FOR CY 2010

The National Food Authority, Region III through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified persons specializing in the said line to participate to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains handling services (Project Reference No. RGN III-10-1) in the different NFA-accredited warehouses in Region III for Calendar Year 2010.

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	NO. OF HANDLING VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (in bag of 50 kg)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT For 30 kg bagged Grain	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (Php)	Bidding Fee (Php)
1	Aurora	400,000	3.45	1,380,000	1,000.00
2	Bataan	800,000	3.45	2,760,000	1,000.00
3	Bulacan	800,000	3.45	2,760,000	1,000.00
4	Nueva Ecija	1,000,000	3.45	3,450,000	10,000.00
5	Pampanga	1,000,000	3.45	3,450,000	10,000.00
6	Tarlac	400,000	3.45	1,380,000	1,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the approved project for handling and have the commercial and equipment prayers. Submit to verify the prospective's eligibility for the provision of this project. The bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a two (2) envelope system as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidders will be evaluated on the basis of their submitted eligibility requirements and their bidding proposal.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the NFA-RAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bid documents and Bidding Requirements may be purchased by interested Bidders or their authorized representatives from the NFA, Quezon Dales, Jaro, Iloilo City upon presentation of a non-refundable fee as indicated in the above table.

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 30 - Nov. 5, 2009	8:00 am to 5:00 pm
2. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 6, 2009	8:00 am
3. Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Documents	Nov. 19, 2009	8:00 am

Precinct Conference and the opening of Bids shall be conducted at AP, NFA Iloilo Regional Office Conference Room, Quezon Dales, Jaro, Iloilo City.

The National Food Authority, Region III reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder(s).

MATILDA A. ACOJE-ALTHEORETO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Quezon Dales, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 329-4764
Fax No. (033) 329-4764

Date: FELIPA B. CARRASCAL, MNSA
BAC Chairperson

PHILIPPINE BUSINESS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS
Magallanes corner Real Streets, Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the largest association-led non-profit social development foundation in the Philippines, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested bidders to submit/participate for eligibility and subsequently to bid for the:

I. WATER PLANTS
LEGAZPI, Lot 5 and Portal Bid

A. Name of Project
PBSP Annual Report 2009

B. Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
Design and Layout - Php 40,000
Printing - Php 800,000

II. Scope of Work
A. Design Concept
1. Layout
2. Printing (Color Separation/Binding, etc.)

B. Project Duration
Design & Layout - Approximately 2 calendar days
Printing: Approximately 15 calendar days

III. REQUIREMENTS
A. Experience
Track record in designing/layouting annual reports
Track record in printing Annual Reports

IV. SCHEDULES
A. Submission of the following pre-qualification requirements - November 4, 2009
1. Letter of Intent
2. Company Registration Profile
3. BIR Registration and latest Income Tax Return
4. Business permit
5. SSS/GSIS registration
6. Audited Financial Statements and Income Tax Return
7. Secondary accreditation of relevant experiences for the last three years

B. Submission of Design Studies/Printing and Opening of Bids
1. Printing – November 11, 2009 @ 10:00
2. Design Studies – November 12, 2009 @ 1:00 PM

Venue: PBSP Office, Intramuros, Manila

C. Presentation of Design Studies to the Selection Board
November 16, 2009 @ 2:00 PM
Conference room, PBSP Office
PBSP Manila Office
Intramuros, Manila

D. Notification of Award
1. Disapproved only
2. Winning only
3. Both disapproved and winning
Please specify option on the envelope.

E. Pre-Bid Conference
November 9, 2009 @ 10:00AM
Conference Room of PBSP Office
Magallanes cor. Real St., Intramuros, Manila

Bids not received on or after 11:00 AM on date stating the contract deadline.

PBSP reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or any obligation to inform the affected bidder of the ground for such action.

PBSP was pioneer an responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids.

BAC Chairperson

PBSP-Bids and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 527-0741 to 45 loc. 2222
Fax No. 527-0741 loc. 2222

The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Gocco

Family feud tarnishes Saudi's image

CAIRO—IT GOES WELL BEYOND THE AVERAGE FAMILY squabble. For months, two billionaire families in Saudi Arabia, linked by marriage, have been locked in a bitter legal battle centered on an estimated $22 billion debt implosion and allegations of billions of dollars in fraud.

Bank accounts have been frozen, international banks, facing billions in outstanding debt, have filed suit. Claims of scapegoating and family jealousies have splashed across Mideast newspapers.

The dispute between Maan al-Sanea and his Saad Group and Ahmad Hamad al-Gosaibi and Bros., or Ahab—two of Saudi Arabia's most prominent private conglomerates—threatens to cast a pall over Saudi Arabia's image at a time when the global meltdown and credit crisis already have squeezed the kingdom's companies.

It also has raised new questions whether Saudi's financial and corporate system—still dominated by clans, ethnic and personal relationships—are transparent enough to allow outside lenders to make sound decisions. That worry has the potential to impact investment in the kingdom long term.

"During the crisis, if anything at all, transparency has deteriorated, and that is one of the key cultural changes that has to take place, particularly among family-owned companies—where the tendency is to squeeze in the greatest," said Philipp Lotter, the Dubai-based senior vice president of Moody's Investor's Service.

Ashfaq Ashraf Shah, a Dubai-based analyst with Deutsche Bank: "The feeling at the moment is that without greater disclosure, it's difficult to commit capital."

The details of the case have trickled out slowly, mostly in court cases filed in the United States and London.

Little has come from either company so far than money from southwestern Saudi Arabia. Such family ties businesses have traditionally been treated with deference.

The fight has so far stemmed a civil matter, with no known criminal charges.

The saga hinges on claims by the Al-Gosaibi family that Al-Sanea—Saad's chair and a major HSBC stakeholder who is also married to a daughter of the Al-Gosaibi patriarch—defrauded them of over $9 billion. Al-Sanea was hired in March by Forbes as the world's richest cricketer payment.

According to a claim recently filed in a New York lawsuit, Al-Sanea's actions eventually caused the company to default on billions in debt to international banks.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, the country's central bank, offered the first hint that trouble was brewing. A letter sent to the company's lenders in May ordered a freeze on the accounts of Al-Sanea, as well as those of several family members, including his wife.

The central bank offered no details, which prompted several international ratings agencies to first downgrade, then withdraw, their ratings for Saad Group and then for Ahab.

The central bank has since largely resolved others, and calls and e-mails to both Saad and Ahab were not answered.

Saad Group—whose holdings include hospitals, travel firms, banks and financial services companies—explained at the time that it was facing a "short-term liquidity squeeze" linked to the global credit crunch. It attributed that to factors including the "failure of companies owned by a prominent Saudi family business and the unexpected and unprecedented regional reaction to that failure."

The company said debt restructuring was under way.

It soon became clear that the prominent Saudi family business was Ahab, and the failing companies included The International Banking Co., a Bahrain-based bank owned by Ahab that had defaulted on some debts.

Media reports indicated that Al-Sanea had served as TIBC's chair.

Saad officials, however, said that although Al-Sanea had once served as TIBC's managing director, he was no longer with the company. A later statement conceded that Al-Sanea had only arms-length commercial dealings with Ahab, whose holdings range from construction to building depot. AP

15,000 Bibles confiscated in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—MALAYSIAN authorities confiscated more than 15,000 Bibles imported from Indonesia in recent months because they referred to "God" as "Allah," a translation that has been banned in this Muslim-majority country, Church officials said on Thursday.

The alleged seizure is certain to reignite complaints by religious minorities that their rights to practice their faiths freely has come under threat as the government panders to the Muslim majority.

A growing sense of discrimination among the minorities is stopping many of Malaysia's reputation as a harmonious multiethnic nation that practices a moderate brand of Islam.

The Rev. Hermen Shastri, general secretary of the Council of Churches of Malaysia, said authorities seized a consignment of 10,000 copies sent from Jakarta to Kuching, in Sarawak state in Sept. 11 because the Indonesian-language Bibles contained the word "Allah."

Indonesian language is similar to Malaysian language, both of which use "Allah" as translation for God.

Another 5,300 Bibles, also imported from Indonesia, were seized in March, said an official from the Bible Society of Malaysia, who asked not to be named for fear of angering the government.

A home ministry official said he was not aware of the seizures. He said he couldn't be named without his superiors' clearance.

Malaysia has banned non-Muslims from using the word "Allah" in their texts, saying the word is Islamic and may upset Muslims. About 60 percent of the country's 28 million people are Malay Muslims while 25 percent are ethnic Chinese and 8 percent are Indians. Many of the Chinese and Indians are Christians.

The Roman Catholic Church is challenging the "Allah" ban in court, saying it is unconstitutional and discriminates against those worshipping in Malay language. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE
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SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Malasarte ● Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dichoso

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Tigers try to check skid vs Giants today

Roach insists on KO win / A31

By Mueng R. Casilla

PURE FOOTBALL TEST TO EXTEND COCA-COLA'S MISERY TODAY when they clash in the SFC-PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

Game time is 6 p.m. with the Tender-Juicy Giants seeking to win a second straight game and inflict a fourth straight loss on the Tigers, a rock-solid side on paper who have lost their first three outings horribly.

The Tigers are in one of their worst starts in years despite adding Dennis Espino to the roster in one of the most talk-heard trades in the offseason.

But Tanduay's all-imported skin neighborhood foe Coca-Cola unloaded it loss-9 misconceptions expected to be cut for at least one other week because of an ankle injury.

Burger King gave Air Inc several win against Sta. Lucia in the 7:30 p.m. contest.

The Realtors will come into the game still nursing their first loss of the season, an 83–100 slipping at the hands of the Talk 'N Text Tropang Texters.

Burger King, on the other hand, has shown that there is life after losing Wynne Arboleda to the Philippine Patriots' backfield via a 91-69 victory over Pasig in Metro Intl Saturday in Calgroup. Mbuaki Dwedal, whose flashy buzzsaw moves knocked in the game-winner with 1.4 seconds left.

No-hearing games

Meanwhile, the Commissioner's Office declared games that they can't and future results of games by PBA teams against guys squad Jason Gilas will now all be no-hearing. (Two-thirds of story on A30)

As a result, the victories by Burger King, Talk 'N Text and Gin-Kings over the outlawed team supposedly have been stricken off their respective records.

Commissioner Sonny Barrios, on instructions from the board, decided to treat the Jason Gilas games as mere exhibitions following two blowout losses by the PBA franchise, who didn't get help at all from American reinforcement CJ Giles.

Giles, who is applying for naturalization so he can play for the national team, could not concentrate on his game after learning that his son is suffering from a serious ailment in the United States.

The former Los Angeles Lakers played for only five minutes in the outlawed squad's blowout defeat to Barangay Ginebra and came to wear clothes against Talk 'N Text.

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SEA Games lineup: 247 athletes, 132 officials

By Jose Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (POC) included 80 more officials and 94 athletes to the final SEAP lineup of 247 it submitted to the Laos Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee.

The last minute Filipino entries, whose participation will be shouldered by the POC, were not on the list of 600 (333 athletes and 47 officials) whose Laos stint the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) will fund to the tune of P30 million.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. yesterday justified the inclusion of 179, saying a smaller delegation would prevent potential medalists from bringing honor to the country.

Cojuangco also pointed out that excluding young athletes would be detrimental to the objective of the Olympic body to promulgate a steady stream of athletes for future international competitions.

No reason was given why the additional SEAP delegates had almost as many officials as athletes.

Based on the criteria set by the PSC and the POC, only gold and silver medalists during the 2007 SEA Games in Thailand were automatically qualified to dent the national coffers again.

After a series of meetings between SEAP chef de mission Mario Vinchangco, who represented the POC, and PSC commissioner Ann Mancka, the first SEA Games veteran at 53 Architect... who will compete in 3x3 tennis...plus 47 officials was approved.

Vinchangco said he expected the PSC to spend P70,000, including air fare, seventeen daims and allowances, for each member of the delegation.

Based on that computation, the POC will now have to raise P12.33 million for the 179 extra delegates.

Cojuangco said the POC took notice of the consistent improvement of many athletes, who initially failed to meet the PSC standard, in recent months.

The Laos Games are scheduled Dec. 9 to 18 in the capital Vientiane.

"We added athletes whom we feel have the potential (to win medals)," said Cojuangco. "If we don't give these athletes a chance, especially the younger ones, what will happen to us in the future?

"Our athletes (medalists) will get old and nobody with solid experience will replace them."

Vinchangco endorsed yesterday from Ukraine after personally submitting the final SEAP lineup to the organizers on Wednesday. He said the complete list would be made available to the media today.

"There are several pledges from our friends who are willing to support these athletes," said Cojuangco. "We will find ways to come up with the (amount)."

Philippine Olympic Committee Executive Board member Jeno Romualdez echoed Cojuangco's sentiments, emphasizing the need to consider the youth component of the country's delegation to help developor for future competitions.

"Give the youth a chance, said Romualdez. "If we're going to limit ourselves to the gold and silver (winners) then, what criteria are we going to use to the Asian Games years you and in the 2011 SEA Games?"

Cubs reward Badolato

Coach's 15th juniors title perfect retirement bonus

By Cedell P. Tupas

WITH HIS LEGACY INTACT, KFD Badolato soaked in the moment of his last victory ride as San Beda high school coach. Fighting back tears of joy.

The Red Cubs gave Badolato a memorable going-away present yesterday by winning the NCAA juniors basketball crown with a hard-earned 86-75 victory over the Letran Squires in their rubber match at Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"I really felt (that they really wanted to win it for me," said Badolato, who will relinquish the post he held the past 27 years to focus on his work as athletic director of the school.

"It's bittersweet," added the coach who has 15 NCAA junior titles with San Beda under his belt. "It's sad in letters. But I'm happy to leave as a champion."

The victory also erased the pain of last Friday's defeat in the seniors' division, where the three-time defending champion Red Lions lost their crown to San Sebastian via a two-game sweep last Saturday.

Senior to the core in Gray and rookie Baser Amer helped ensure that the legendary Badolato would leave a winner with clutch baskets that quelled the Squires' uprising in the fourth period.

Dexter Cruz, the son of ex-PBA player Art, pumped in 22 points, including a triple that lifted the Cubs, 81-77, with 1:40 left, after the Squires had erased down the lead to two. He also pulled down 17 rebounds, dished out five assists and had four steals.

Amer, who exploded for 30 points in the Game 2 loss, did most of the damage in the first three periods to finish with 21. The 17-year old guard from Davao City was later named MVP of the finals.

The Cubs led by as many as 20 points early in the third period after five consecutive points by Amer and a jump by Javier Cruz.

But the Squires, behind Jasvines Timpug, stormed back into the thick of the fight with a 12-0 blast that sliced the deficit to 48-34.

An ankle injury re-kindled by teammate Glenn Khobuntin midway in the third period and the disqualification of center Jeff Dagdera due to fouls doomed the Squires, who were on a 17-game winning run in the elimination-round before losing to the Cubs.

Ana Borda has yet to announce Badolato's replacement, although the coaching rumors mill has already circulated his assistant, Bob Bermosa, to take his place.

A handful of Badolato's former players, including national pool member Jb Cantu, attended the game in a rare reunion of ex-Cubs.

"I was happy for (last slam of support," said Badolato, who considers the numerous players from San Beda who have gone on to play in the national team and in the PBA as his biggest contribution to Philippine basketball.

PLAYERS and team officials of the nine-time San Beda Red Cubs share the hoarse with retiring coach Jobo Badolato (left at center, back row) after downing the Letran Squires in yesterday's championship KO game.

Reyes trails hot Chao in Face Off pool series

By Roy Luarca

CHAO to control

CAN EFREN "BATA" REYES still pull off a Houdini act?

His fans—of "bata" materials hoped that the Filipino pool icon can extend out of a deep hole and turn Defensive legend Chao Fong-pang in the last segment of their Race Off Series 2. The Grandmaster clad last night at Club Cagayan's theatre on Timog Avenue in Quezon City.

Fitting Manila on the break several times, Reyes trailed the deadly Chao, 16-25, Petersburg night at the start of their race-to-50 nine-ball showdown for $4,000.

Yet still a long way to go, and I've still yesterday that I can finish strong and never count his head."

The 55-year-old Reyes came into the showdown boasting a string of three major titles.

After he knocked the score for the last time at 14, Chao found his mark and took the over four racks.

Reyes persevered in take the next two frames, but fellow two-time world champion Chao swept the next six racks for the massive biggest spread, 24-16.

Already trailing Reyes pocket the next two racks, Chao crawled out the first half of their showdown and latched closer toward duplicating unexpected Hong Ching-chun's 50-45 conquest of Dennis Orcollo in the series opener in September.

"I also made a couple of mistakes, but I was lucky, he wouldn't make a good break," said Chao.

SPORTSWATCH

BEST EXAMPLE

BEST Center alumnus Chris Tiu (left) rooms with the basketball clinic's founder, Mo Jorge (right), and Mo PR and sports executive Lunor P. Castillo during a recent playdate of the Mo-sponsored **BEST** Center SBP-Fiesmerlin tournament. Young basketball players from across the country are vying in the 24th season of the twin tournaments being played in Pampanga, Nueva City and General Santos City for the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao regional finals, respectively. The national finals will be held in Baguio City.

Archer Bagatsing leads PBL Rookie Camp bets

FIFTY SIX PLAYERS, LED BY LA SALLE GUARD HARDAR BAGATSING, are joining the PBL Rookie Camp on Nov. 10 at the JBU Gym.

The camp, which begins at 8 a.m., has also lured players like Ateneo freshmen Chris Newsome, reigning College Conference Most Valuable Player Jolo Mendoza and 6-foot-3 Filipino-American Robert Simpson.

The draft is slated for the second week of November with players 26 and below by then 7 eligible for selection.

Players who want to join the draft may e-mail the league at pbl@philippinebasketball.com.

Players are required to submit their name, address, date of birth, place of birth, citizenship, school or university he is currently playing for or last has attended, year of high school graduation and name of high school attended plus contact details. **Cedell P. Tupas**

Antonio sits as new Pasay Cockpit CEO today

"COMMART BOY," PATRICK ANTONIO WILL SIT AS THE NEW chief executive officer of the Pasay City Cockpit today.

A former Cagayan Valley congressman, Antonio is one of the country's most popular gamefowl breeders, having won more than 2500 derby championships since 1991.

PCO, on target today, the elimination round of the MILO National Basketball 10-Dog Derby featuring some 80 fights.

Participants who will score three wins in the round get a share of the P1-million prize. After the semifinals, those with perfect scores of six wins get a share in the P2-million bonus.

Ricky Villanueva, president of the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders, said about 2,000 entries are expected to vie in the prestigious national derby.

Fire down below

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Ser Sarmenta

IN ANY TOURNAMENT IT'S ALWAYS exciting to see how the star is rumbling among the leaders. In the current Fiesta Conference, it's engaging to follow the elite squads roll over the lesser teams and collide against their equals.

But it's always intriguing to look at the bottom of the totem pole to check the counterpoising to catch up with the rumble of the pack.

In the reigning EPT (PBA Philippine Cup), the top of the standings has Alaska, Talk 'N Text, Barangay Ginebra, Purefoods and Sta Lucia as among the early front-runners. Alaska at 4-0 is playing unexceptionally well, dominating nearly every game when Talk 'N Text had to slumpy stumbling, Johnny Abarrientos, Jeffrey Cariaso, Jojo Lastimosa, Rino Hawkins A and Mark Isaac.

The backcourt duo of Willie Miller and LA Tenorio is a prime candidate to be one of the greatest combos in PBA history in the field of a Jaworski-Asaak, Sabonis-Go or even Stockton-and-Cagaoan of recent vintage.

Miller is among the scoring leaders of the league, and Tenorio is the league's leading assist man (besides enough offense some and finishes well).

* * *

As the bottom, there's a struggle for Rain or Shine and Coca-Cola to avoid the cellar. Rain or Shine need to start a winning run before games run out and the inexperience of the

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Ser Sarmenta

the tournament format kicks in.

The rookie Bolts or Shine slipped to 0-4 after losing to rookie Budi, and Coke is battling along at 0-3.

Rookie Budi seemed destined to be in the cellar for two-what against Rain or Shine and Coca-Cola have bounced their confidence. But Energy Boosters are playing .500 ball but the end will come in the days ahead when Chalmers, Talk 'N Text and San Miguel sink the them.

Coca-Cola and Rain or Shine desperately need an exclusive confidence on the floor to direct the offense. The lack of a consistent court general has resulted in ball-handling problems and shot selection.

Coca-Cola is scoring zero the ball 27 points per game (league worst) while Rain or Shine has averaged 83 (second worst).

Shot selection and concentrate is another problem. Coke is shooting only 39 percent while Rain or Shine is dead last in accuracy with 36 percent.

* * *

For Rain or Shine, there is a need for a point guard who will sacrifice his own offense to get the regular minutes the ball whose they can be more effective.

Coca-Cola has guards in Marvin Uriel, Chris Ross and Alex Cabagnot but they still need reasoning against the solid defenses the leading teams play.

Tactics reasoning will have to be done not only in identifying that point person but also in reviewing how their offense flows.

The defensive intensity question will also have to be checked because Coca-Cola has allowed as many as 92 points to be scored against them, while Rain or Shine has allowed 91.

A little too much when you consider that Talk 'N Text leads in limiting opponents to only 76 points per game tonight, of course, in that same game Ped Bunkley and his San Miguel mates the Dragong Bosses, 100-90.

In a tournament format where the lowplayed team will be out of the playoffs, the Elasto Painters in the Tigers don't want to have that horrible fate.

There were no encounters on the rough edges of their games before it's too late.

SBP unhappy with no-bearing PBA games

By Jose Navarro

IT WAS A SUBTLE WAY OF telling the Smart Gilas national team it's not welcome in the Philippine Basketball Association.

This was the reaction yesterday of Noli Eala, the former PBA commissioner and now executive director of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, after the PBA got league declared as no-bearing all games played and to be played by Smart Gilas as a guest squad in the ongoing 40th PBA Philippine Cup.

Although Eala's gripe is set of rules before the tournament started and those opinions are not included in the conditions," said Eala. "This is a surprise."

Under the directive from commissioner Sonny Barrios, the victories by Purefoods Hotdogs, Talk 'N Text over Smart Gilas will be stricken off the PBA course/conference.

"We are convinced that it is in everyone's best interest if both teams go into the game with the same mindset that the games box as 'bearing,'" said Barrios in his letter to Eala.

"Both Smart Gilas and the PBA opposing teams, and their players, will thus be on equal footing as far as the playing approach of the game are concerned."

But Eala said there was "never any objection or condition that the Kidlat will not be allowed to play and on the manner that we have been."

"It's their way of telling us subtly that they don't want us to play in the PBA," Eala added.

Aiming to clinch an Asian spot in the 2012 London Olympics, Gilas is using the PBA experience as preparation for the 2011 FIBA Asia Championship, the qualifying event for the Olympics.

San Beda, UP tankers Unigames pool champs

LOU DELA ANO UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES secured the outstanding overall in dominating fashion yesterday even as St. Benilde rallied up to title collection to 4-out in the 14th UniGames in Iloilo City.

John Orbe Hanson's and Svetlana Cigilleon powered the Sea Lions with five gold medals each as Isla Bella ruled all but one of the 16 events in the competition.

Hanson topped the 100-meter and 200-m breaststroke and 200-m medley while Feip Elona completed a hat-trick of victories in the 100-m, 200-m and 400-m freestyle races. The two San Beda tankers' two other gold came in the relay races.

The Lady Maroons were even more impressive, finishing out a sweep behind scintillating performances by Cindy Gallardo and Claire Adorna, who also played an instrumental role in sending UP's 16-year title drought to the OAAP last month.

Gallardo ... topped four individual golds and two relay titles to emerge as the meet's top swimmer, while Adorna inked three events.

Mendiola-Isaac[illegible] squash[illegible] domi[illegible] other events with the St. Benilde Blazers sweeping the men's and women's crown and reigning supreme in women's table tennis, a day after dominating the 10th women's event.

The Knights, 11 record victories in men's table tennis and women's chess, while

DEL PRADO. Fastest

University of the East topped men's badminton as the supreme of Ilocos Christian College.

The IOC lady Gladiators made up for their loss by thumping the Lady Blazers in the finals.

Pilot Technological University brought home the men's athletic title, while UST ruled the dental side. Grabbing the spotlight was Isabela del Prado Jr., son of the former athletics great, who crowned himself as the meet's fastest runner by clocking 10.77 seconds.

The Tamaraws' only track of the 100-m sprint led in basketball with a 95-86 win of Holy Ghost of Bowie to arrange a semifinal showdown with the FEU Tamaraws, who booted out Ateneo Agamudo of College, 86-67. Clashing in the other semifinal duel are St. Francis of Assisi College and University of Iloilo.

Adventist and FEU forged a rematch of the OAAP finals won by the Lady Tamaraws early this month. The Lady Blazers dumped St. Benilde, 93-51, while FEU bundled out University of Manila, 79-57.

University of San Jose-Recoletos of Cebu grabbed the first finals spot in men's volleyball with a 20-27, 31-29, 25-16 triumph over JRC. Defending champion EAT and University of St. Louis will play for the other finals slot.

UST stayed in the hunt for a volleyball double after forging a semifinal meeting with Adamson in the women's division. Defending champion St. La Salle will play De La Salle University in the other semifinal pairing.

In men's football, West Visayas University-Banaued University of the Philippines, 5-0, for the first finals seat. The WPU-'O awaits the winner of the UNA-St. Benilde clash.

Reigning champion De La Salle routed the first finals slot in women's play after a 4-2 penalty shootout win over UP. Cedric B. Tupaz

AWAY! Pacquiao to get $1 million for every Miguel Cotto score posted.

Cotto to pay stiff price for extra weight

By Roy Luarca

IT WILL COST MIGUEL COTTO A FORtune, at least $1 million, if he exceeds the agreed catch weight in his New 14 battle with Manny Pacquiao in Las Vegas.

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's chief trainer, said Cotto will have to shell out $1 million for every extra pound over the 145-pound limit during the weigh-in for the defending the World Boxing Organization welterweight crown.

And if Cotto exceeds the 147-lb welterweight limit, the much-awaited pay-per-view bout at the MGM Grand would be called off.

But if the Puerto Rican tips the scales at an exact 147, Roach told GMA news that he's confident in Mr Pacquiao's quest for a record seventh world title crown.

Roach has denied the weight issue is to prevent a repeat of what Floyd Mayweather Jr. did in his comeback fight against Juan Manuel Marquez in August. Floyd came in at 144 instead of the catch weight of 144.

MJ Receptor reported by grab the condition and fighter Pacquiao $500,000, unless he lose by unanimous decision.

After training for four weeks in Baguio City and a week in Manila, Pacquiao is winding up his preparations for Cotto at Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

According to a report by Reuters, Roach has insisted that Pacquiao will knock out Cotto because of his fighter's impressive work in training camp.

"Cotto is going very very well and we are 100 percent ready for the fight," Roach told an ashtrayshrouder tell with Pacquiao on Wednesday.

"I feel like Manny, the way he is punching right now and with all this power has at this weight, is going to knock Cotto out. I am very confident and I look forward to the win.

"I just think Miguel Cotto's defense isn't good enough. He's brittle and people that Manny's size, he knocks out."

Pacquiao, who has a career record of 49-3-2 with 37 knockouts, agree a smooth training with Roach in the Philippines before returning to Los Angeles this week to complete his preparations.

Although their time in Manila had to be cut short with Pacquiao being distracted by congressional hearings, Roach determined their trip to Asia as a great success overall. With reports from Reuters and Miguel Juarez

ICTSI TOUR

Aunzo on threshold of 2nd title

By Marang R. Castillo

ANTIPOLO CITY – FIDDIE AUNZO put himself in prime position to win consecutive titles in the ICTSI Philippine Golf Tour after shooting a one-under-par 70 yesterday for a one-stroke lead going into the final round at the Forest Hills Golf Club.

The newly former national amateur champion flashed birdie-birdie-par for a 36-hole 144 aggregate, one shot ahead of first-round leader Gene Bienvenido and four others.

Aunzo's strong winning came after a solid first nine, where he tripped on a double bogey and two bogeys to go with three birdies for his 36.

Rookie, a rookie pro like Aunzo, also had an interesting 75 where he carded four bogeys and a triple on the par-4 12th against two birdies and an eagle.

He had a 140 total like Rizalde Dionisio and Michael Bibat, who shot identical 69s, Ervin Vicdan (72) and Jay Reyes (71).

Leg winners Elmer Salvador (71), Enrique Enerio (72) and Rafael Bautista (74) rested just another stroke back at 146.

Also putting himself well in the overall fight was junior star Miguel Tabuena, who fired a 72 for 147.

With a huge final round lurking, Tabuena could become just the third amateur to take a leg in this circuit after Jason Marohom and reigning PF Ang champ Mark Fernando.

The seventh leg of the P10 million circuit is being backed by MJ Get Golf Management, Pinoy, Srixon, Titan, Bankers Mirror, Motorola, Outsource, Nike Golf, Tiger Golfwear and Pandaw with the final two stops scheduled at scenic Valley resort awards and to Gardening to Dasmariñas.

ON POINT. Fiddie Aunzo is a shot clear of the field.

NUMERO UNO. Members of the University of Asia and the Pacific women's basketball squad savor their championship in the Senior B division of the recent UAP-NCAA tournament. (UA&P hosted La Consolacion College-Manila, 3-1, in their best-of-three title series.

Carlos shows way with 69 in Faldo golf

JOSEFO CARLOS SANTIBAÑEZ A 3-under-par 69 to take a five-stroke lead in the eliminator boys' 10-under class of the inaugural Fidel Sotto Philippines golf championship at the DLC Haven layout in Ivas Point, Laguna.

Carlos, who partnered with pro Cookie Lo53 in finishing second to the Ramos Manolo Devaiera two years ago, was solid all day outs the 74-of-course records and the 75 of Glenn Dailey ending up as the semifinal scores.

But while the boys' division crowns a new champion, Stephanie Gutierrez and Selena Kaindog were locked in a tight duel toward of their home fields last a couple of weeks back in Boracay.

Dr. Gutierrez and Manalag tied for the lead in today's play with 76s with the 10-year-old, long-hitting Dr. Gutierrez seeking to repeat her triumph at the comebacking Manalag in the Laoisan tournament.

Two Iriga Gabusa of Cebu was in third spot like fourth Anna Alvarado and Anne Salazar with 79s, even as Nina dela Paz fired a 79-to lead to the boys' 13-under division.

The grand prize for the tourna-

ON TARGET. Josefo Carlos is the boys' 10-under class leader.

ment is a slot in the Grand Finals set to be held at the Riverton Hills Golf Club in Mandaluyong, Cainta, in Manila.

Tom Phillips, CEO of the Philippines, and Joseph Sweydanian of the Philippines president Gary Hawkins is spearhead the opening of the 36-hole event which included a clinic conducted by marching pro Ian Gotts.

Only five guys into the first round today is one-stroke lead over Calvin Angelo Sandiamon and Norman Hon Arcay Pete with Fritz Gallardo one shot back at 77.

Manong R. Castillo

Fegidero lifts Bacolod XI over Malay Mail

FORMER NATIONAL TEAM striker Norman Fegidero struck home in the first half to power the mixed United to a 3-2 tripping of Malay Mail of Malaysia, 3-2, in the finale of the 45th Milo Football Football Championship at the Panaad Stadium in Bacolod City.

Fegidero, whose most memorable stint for the national team came in the 1-0 upset of then-defending champion Indonesia in the 1991 SEA Games, scored in the 22nd and 27th minutes after the Malaysians broke the ice through Supriamanto in the ninth minute.

The Bisayan-ites equalized nine minutes from the break thanks to Mesad Fredrick Fatalin.

Greg Gamlo found the back of the net in the 50th minute, his effort just inside the box turning out to be the game-winning goal in the tournament sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation.

"We need some score to find our young players will score faster and will be inspired," said FFF president Mon Martinez.

The FFF has been bounded by a run of poor results in international tournaments with the PF boys and girls Under-16 squads losing by huge margins in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Asean tournaments, respectively.

Host Negrense FC prevailed over FNGP Cebu FC for third place in the event organized by Bacolod United FC and BSFC.

Completing the Bacolod United squad are Reynando Baldivia, Derek de Asis, Simon Dalberto, Arnel Sequenza, Nicolas Edralang, Raymund Rudeng, Beatrice dela Cruz, Jonathan Estrada, Ronnie Bandila, Alfredo Abion, Leo Arevalo, Benjamin Nebia, Lorenzo Libunjas, Ramjun Mina, Reynaldo Dollisi, Frederick Segovia, Edwin Bermeneo, Enrique Barrerosa and Manuel Udtojo. Cedric B. Tupaz

PCA Open: Age group aces safely through

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD JUNRICK JUSTIN MendiolaDubbed Mac Delos Reyes, 9-3, 8-3, to advance to the semifinals of the 36-under category of the 2008 Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open tennis championships.

Mendiola, one of the emerging talents from Subic, flashed his usual attacking style in dispose of Delos Reyes and set up a finals encounter with Andre Bautista, who overcame Jayden Dela Cruz, 6-2, 2-6, 6-0.

Top seed Christian Jan Medina, three points and Mikee Tomawera led the march of favorites to the semifinals of their respective age group divisions.

Jan Andrew stopped Ryouzen Ingcado with a 6-and, 6-0 win to arrange a semis match with unseeded Vince Mateo, who won by default in the boys' 12-under.

Junior dominated Lawrence Mariano, 6-0, 6-0, in the boys' 14-under to set up semi duel with No. 7 seed Al Cruz, 6-0, 6-3 winners over Jose Cano. Calvin Garcia and Jerone Librado will meet in the other semi pairing.

Tomawera blasted Joseph Tiamson, 6-0, 6-3, to advance in the 10-under semis against Manuel Rafer III, who beat Gabriel dela Merced, 6-3, 6-2. Raphael Teng routed Alexis Bangayan, 6-1, 6-2, to keep a semis date with Jessica Cruz, who overpowered Frances Gumbaga, 6-0, 6-0.

Mika Brimi paced the semifinalists in the girls' 12-under along with Samantha Uy and Isabelle Brimi.

Registration is still open in the men's and women's seniors divisions. The seniors' qualifying rounds starts on Nov. 9 and ends on Nov. 13. The main draws begins on Nov. 14.

Poor starts by Frankie, Juvic

SINGAPORE – JUSTIN THOMAS, Antonio Lascuña and Frankie Minoza turned the prize prospect of entering the halfway out of the $5 million Singapore Open after a struggling start in the first round that was supervised due to darkness Thursday.

Pajarillo and Lascuña both carded 3-over-par 74s while Minoza had a 75 among the early finishers at the Sentosa course of the Sentosa Golf Club.

Only Mars Pucay seemed to have a chance of posting a good score in the abated event, par after six holes when play was halted.

Angelo Que, Antonio Marchesi and Louie Danzker were all 1-over after eight, on said four holes, respectively.

Ian Poulter of England was the clubhouse leader with a two-under 70 in the Group of Death, and said goal after Chan Wisdom of Taipei and for second at one-day behind.

World No. 2 Phil Mickelson was among a big group at 500.

Contador stays with Astana

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN—TOUR DE FRANCE CHAMPION ALBERTO Contador will remain with the Astana team at least until his contract expires at the end of next year, Kazakh Cycling Federation deputy president Nikolai Fraidounik said Thursday. AP

SPORTS

Athletes urged to get H1N1 shots

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA—ATHLETES AND SPECTATORS WILL be encouraged to get vaccinated against the H1N1 flu before traveling to next year's Winter Olympics in Vancouver, an official said on Wednesday. The move was part of Canada's national immunization effort. Reuters

Serena clinches year-end No.1 after Safina quits

DOHA—SERENA WILLIAMS RAISED her left elbow in a triumphant salute to the crowd after she had secured a fifth title this year and ended the season as the world's No. 1 player for the first time since 2002 when Lindsay Davenport won the Tour Championships.

Williams, who topped the standings for more than half the year but needed to win more match bonuses than Dinara Safina to edge out the first place, made a tearful exit with a lower back injury before confirming that she would not attempt to play her other two round-robin matches.

Safina then went out and beat Anna Chakvetadze in a finally that ended past midnight, coming through 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (3) in a tense three-hour contest that celebrated the massive hotbeats of the 11-times grand slam champion.

While victory virtually assured Serena of her place in the semifinals, it left Venus's hopes of retaining her title hanging by a thread after she suffered her second defeat in two days after falling to Elena Dementieva on the first day.

"2009 has been really memorable season for me during which I enjoyed most of my biggest career wins," Australian Open and Wimbledon champion Serena told reporters.

"Captaining the year-end would number one ranking is a huge accomplishment for me and I am thrilled that all the hard work has paid off," this did. However, upon a thought for Safina despite often questioning the Russian's credentials as a world number one this year.

"Dinara is such a good player that she must be really hurt because she never gives up," Serena said. "It's a shame but the tournament because it would have been great if we had both gotten through to the finals to battle for it."

Reuters

SERENA Williams

WORLD SERIES OPENER

Phillies rip Yankees as lefty Lee sparkles

NEW YORK—THE FIRST WORLD Series game played at the new New York Stadium was rained into a contest for all the Philadelphia Phillies left-hander Cliff Lee.

Lee gave the retooled 50,307 fans to cheer about while tending the 2009 World Series champions to a 6-1 victory over the New York Yankees in the first game of the 2009 Fall Classic on Wednesday.

On a chilly night with a consistent drizzle, the powerful Yankee hitters were kept off-balance by Lee's ability to mix his fastball with an array of off-speed pitches.

"That was the key," said Phillies catcher Carlos Ruiz. "If you're the pitcher, you've got to mix it up. He did it very good. His curve and change-up was great all night."

Lee, a mid-season acquisition by the Phillies, struck out 10 while giving up only six hits and an unearned run in the ninth. In that time, most of the fans had headed for the exits.

"Planning Game One it large," said Lee, who won the 2008 Cy Young Award with the Cleveland Indians.

"You want to get off to a good start. It's a seven-game series, getting that first one out of the way is big for us.

"At worst we can split here in New York and go back home and really have the home field advantage."

Three-time Cy Young Award winner Lee's counterpart for the Yankees, who do not want to head to Philadelphia for the next three games in an 0-2 hole.

New York manager Joe Girardi praised Lee for keeping the Yankees guessing.

"He was great," said Girardi. "He kept us off balance.

"He got it to three-zone pitches when we were down in the count, up in the zone. He used his cutter very well, he used his curveball really well.

"He's pitching extremely well. But one thing to be can't allow over this," Phillies reliever Brad Lidge said he enjoyed watching Lee from the bullpen.

"It's pretty amazing what he did tonight, but he's been doing it all postseason. He can pinpoint his change-up. His curve. He is stylish."

Reuters

PHILLIES' Cliff Lee shows the form that baffled the Yankees' batters.

Agassi says he always hated tennis

WASHINGTON—SO MUCH OF ANDRE Agassi's life has been spent in the public eye—the red-eye flights and boos, an end of the court, during his tumultuous 16-year tenure feud to elder statesman—that it was possible to wonder how much more there was to be said about it all.

Plenty, it turns out. Excerpts of Agassi's upcoming autobiography published via Wednesday by Knopf's Blackfriad and the Times of London contain graphic depictions of his use of crystal meth, an account of how he wrangled his way out of a suspension by lying to the ATP Tour after failing a 1997 drug test, and the jaw-dropping confession that he always hated tennis "with a dark and secret passion" because of his overbearing father.

If image is indeed everything, as figure and as we as well a customer's consumer, he has provided some incredible behind-the-scenes images—along with raising questions about why he chose to reveal his crystal meth habit.

"Is it authentic? I don't know. I think it's unduly done this issue. That's the way he has operated in our view going back to the latter portion of his playing career," said Arlen Kantarian, who ran the US Open since 2000-08. Agassi, who owns eight Grand Slam singles titles before retiring in 2006, is not explaining himself at the moment. His representative referred interview requests to his publishing company, which has set up a "#GBIautos" appearance on Nov. 8, the day before the book's scheduled release.

Ill said the Times of London set among four publications that paid for the rights to print parts of "Open: An Autobiography."

AP

Celtics shackle Bobcats; Raptors humble Cavs

DUNK! Earl Clark gets blocked by Clippers' Chris Kaman (left) and Baron Davis in the game won by Phoenix, 109-101.

BOSTON—KEVIN GARNETT SCORED 16 points with seven rebounds during 20-point defensive in his return to the Boston court as the Celtics held the Charlotte Bobcats to a team-low score in a 92-59 victory to their NBA home opener on Wednesday.

Ray Allen scored 18 points and was the only Boston starter to play in the fourth quarter as the Celtics followed their opening-day victory over Cleveland with a blowout of the Bobcats. Paul Pierce scored 15, Rajon Rondo scored 10, with 11 assists and Shaquille O'Neal came off the bench with three baskets.

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 21 points and 17 rebounds, Vince Carter scored 25 points and came close Orlando rolled to a 120-106 victory over Philadelphia.

Jason Anderson added 16 points, and Jason Williams had 15 points to highlight a deep bench. Orlando won shoot by 23 points at halftime.

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 22 points, Al Horford had 16 and reliable finally played some defense in an offensive shootout, pulling away in the fourth quarter for a season-opening 120-109 victory over Indiana.

Danny Granger led Indiana with 31 points.

At Toronto, Andrea Bargnani scored 28 points, Chris Bosh had 21 points and 16 rebounds, and Toronto overcame LeBron James' 29th career triple-double to beat Cleveland, 103-95.

James had 25 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds, but Cleveland opened its season with consecutive losses for the first time since 2004.

Sacramento 107 SAS 102 Atlanta 120 IND 109 Toronto 103 CLE 95 Orlando 120 PHI 106 Phoenix 109 LAC 101

Phelps leads US vs Euro stars

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO—Michael Phelps, who won a record-tight gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, will lead the United States team announced Wednesday into December's Duel in the Pool.

The Americans—set for 16-swimmer line-up also includes Olympic champions Aaron Peirsol, Nina Lochte and Rebecca Soni—will face a select European squad from Italy, Germany and Italy on Dec. 10-13 in Manchester, England.

The third-course series event is the fourth all-star swim meet in the series, but the first set to feature a US-Australia rivalry. Six swimmers dominated Australia in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

AFP

Foreman finally at peace with loss to Ali

THE REMINDER THAT YET ANOTHER anniversary is here had George Foreman thinking that maybe it's time to visit an old friend.

They once had their differences, even came to blows. Time, though, is a great healer.

"Maybe I should go and see him," Foreman said. "He's like a brother. We're that close."

They weren't 33 years ago, on the early morning in Africa when all Foreman had to defeat was dueling water cannons. Said to Muhammad Ali, he had been in Zaire very too long as it was, and that big, brooding heavyweight champion was in no mood to take any nonsense from anybody.

Ali had other ideas. The years had passed, time had dwarfed the world by winning the heavyweight title against Sonny Liston, and he knew a thing or two about beating it fully.

It was 4-6 a.m. in Zaire when the bell sounded for the first round and Ali came out, landing a big right hand to open the fight. Foreman shook it off and went to work, ripping powerful punches to Ali's head and body.

The same shots had dropped Frazier six times, and stopped Chuck Wepner in the second round. Foreman was sure Ali would fall, and the time looked ripe in the third round when he landed a savage right hand to Ali's neck.

"His face hurt and he looked at me like he was going to fight back. Boss just seemed top," Foreman recalled.

Indeed, Ali had found his way to win. He laid on the ropes, covering up and lolling Foreman punch him or will. The "rope-a-dope" may have been born out of desperation, but there was no question what it was doing to Foreman.

He began to last, just as Ali had predicted. Then, with just seconds left in the eighth round, Ali landed a left hook that snapped Foreman's head up, then followed it with a right that sent him staggering to the canvas.

The fight was over.

REFEREE Zack Clayton steps in after Ali knocks down Foreman.

Lito Ruel O. Marcelo • Associate Editor Carrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

BCDA to privatize Subic-Clark-Tarlac tollway

First Pacific, San Miguel seen bidding for project

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY has formally opened the bidding for the management, operations and maintenance of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx).

Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. of the First Pacific group last month submitted an unsolicited proposal to the BCDA for the right to operate, maintain and collect toll from the SCTEx.

San Miguel Corp. has also expressed interest in getting a stake in the tollway.

In a statement issued yesterday, BCDA vice president for finance and asset disposition program committee chair Victor Zaldua said interested bidders have until Nov. 6 to pay a non-refundable fee of ₱200,000, which would allow them to access the

BCDA, B4

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **American firms scout** prospects in Mindanao /B10

Stocks close 1.58% lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.58 PERCENT lower yesterday, dragged by a downturn on Wall Street and domestic concerns over inflation and local companies' earnings, dealers said.

The composite index fell 43.88 points to 2,682.33 while the all-shares index fell 1.47 percent to 1,866.33.

There were 21 gainers against 138 losers and 43 unchanged.

Volume amounted to 1.33 billion shares worth ₱3.33 billion and the total currency traded at 47.731 to the dollar.

"We tracked what happened to the Dow [Jones index] last night," said Jun Celay-Lay of Wocom Capital Equities Inc.

"On a larger scale, the market has really gone up since then. 08 percent over the year across is a reaching for more close to where the bull's advance to be," he told AFP.

STOCKS B3

UBS raises growth forecast for RP in 2010

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTMENT BANK UBS HAS UPGRADED its growth outlook for the Philippines for 2010, alongside a modest global recovery and benign inflation prospects.

UBS also sees a long-term bearish trend for the dollar, which could find a pass appreciation against the greenback to about 94.85 by mid-2011.

In a briefing presenting visiting UBS global economist Brad Setser cautioned against over-optimism on the global economic rebound, noting that small businesses in Western economies were still facing tough economic conditions and that banks were still lending before normal levels.

If he were to characterize the pace of global recovery, Setser said it's like the swoosh in the Nike trademark – the world is seeing a recovery but it may not be as good as the financial markets are hoping for.

"But from the perspective of Asian economies, the good news is things are getting better," Dumlao said.

Supported by pump-demand, the inventory cycle as well as relaxed fiscal and monetary policy, UBS has raised its 2010 growth forecasts for the five biggest economies of Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

The Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) is now seen growing by 3 percent next year from the year's projected growth of 1.3 percent. The forecast for 2010 was raised from the earlier expectation of 4.6 percent.

But the pace of growth next year is seen likely slower than the 7 percent GDP growth fore-

UBS, B2

Export Bank board OKs BDO takeover proposal

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BOARD OF EXPORT AND INDUSTRY Bank yesterday agreed to consider a deal allowing Eugenio Bruny Sy's Banco de Oro Unibank to take over selected assets and liabilities of the bank.

The Export Bank board approved in a meeting yesterday afternoon a resolution authorizing bank chair Irene Fernandez and president Aser Hector Tanjuatco Vasallo and executive the sale ... subject to final negotiations and terms."

A disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange did not identify who will buy the assets and liabilities but other sources confirmed that BDO, as earlier reported, would acquire the core banking assets of EIB.

Industry sources said the terms of the BDO takeover had been drawn up but would still be subject to approval by the board of the country's largest bank.

But, the structure of the deal will no longer be through the sale of shares as considered during the earlier stages of the BDO-Export Bank negotiations. Instead, BDO will buy selected assets and assume about

Sy unit to acquire core banking assets

P36 billion in liabilities, including about P20 billion in deposits and about P9 billion in outstanding loans to the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

A banking source privy to the negotiations said the multibillion-peso deal would be easier to execute given that Export Bank would carve out certain assets that it could sell to other parties in the future. As of end-June, the bank had about P52 billion in total assets, but some of these will not be included in the deal with BDO.

The existing shareholders of Export Bank are expected to benefit from some cash premium to be paid by BDO for the takeover as well as from the sale of assets that will be left in its books and liquidated in the future.

With the change to purchase made, Export Bank shares will be left in the hands of existing shareholders as a shell company. Proceeds from the sale of core banking assets will be handed into this company, which will later on be sold to new investors.

Among the assets not included in the BDO takeover are the bank's stake in 43-story Pacific Banklanie-one Avenda condominium; One Mckinley Place, securities brokerage EIB Securities Inc., insurance brokerage Urbancorp Insurance Brokers Inc., wealth-holder Value One Financial Insurance Co. Inc. and thrift bank unit EIB Microbank Inc.

The Hong Kong-based Lippo group owns 37 percent of the bank, another 22 percent by Sustainable AO Capital, 20 percent by the group of Tan O Corp. and Jose Ma owner Alfredo Yao and 10 percent by the EON group. The remaining 10 percent of the bank is owned by the public.

The biggest attraction for BDO in finalizing the acquisition, despite already being the biggest banking player in total assets, is Export Bank's 16 branches not overlapping with its 361 with Metro Manila. There is an existing memorandum imposed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on the opening of new branches.

Corporate estate planning

TOMORROW THE COUNTRY WILL go on a death remembrance mode.

For most Filipinos, All Saints or All Souls Day is not complete unless they personally visit the final resting place of their dearly departed.

Those allergic to traffic jams and crowds are reported to vary home and prays to priests for the souls of their loved ones, or lose Mass for that purpose.

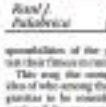
Regardless of the manner of its observance, the occasion is a reminder of our mortality. That "nothing lasts forever."

Sooner or later, following God's design, we will all go and no power on earth can stop that from happening.

This is also the time of the year when preparing for the inevitable usually crosses the mind of responsible parents who do not want the people they'll leave behind to worry about the future.

But the problem is, taking the steps needed to meet that objective is usually held back by the traditional perception about discussing death for the family.

Many Filipinos think that not talking about the Grim Reaper will make it go away or, at least, delay its arrival. And when it comes, the affected parties are forced to improvise and, in the process, suffer the consequences of the lack of preparation.



Corporate Secrets
Rizal / Paksiw/Asado

Succession

In business, implementing a succession plan for key executives who die, resign, retire or are dismissed often stalls from the same problem.

It is something seriously discussed during corporate planning sessions, but is quickly forgotten when management returns to the daily chores of managing the business.

Professionally severe executives do not feel antsy about preparing their successors or wherever they think have good management skills to take over their jobs when the time to step down comes.

The prospective successors are given assignments that allow them to have a feel of the duties and responsibilities of the position, and test their fitness to succeed it.

This way the company gets an idea of who among the staff has the qualities to be considered for promotion if, for any reason, an executive position becomes vacant.

Junior managers, however, are not, for fear of losing their job or due to professional jealousy reserve to the idea of giving their subordinates an opportunity to show their true mettle.

If the underling is able to perform better than his boss, the company's management may transfer the latter elsewhere or, worse, give him his walking papers.

It takes a lot of guts and confidence for a manager to give his subordinates an opportunity to show the limelight with him in the business scene.

Performance

A similar "apprenticeship" practice is observed by some family-owned conglomerates in the country.

While still in full control of their faculties, the business patriarchs put their children in various positions of responsibility to determine their strengths and weaknesses.

The children's performances around helps the patriarch decide on who to assign where in case he decides to give up active management of the business or selects the daughter-in-law to run the family biz.

There is no assurance, however, that the allocation of responsibilities (which carries with it control over a corresponding portion of the family's combined stock) during the patriarch's lifetime will be maintained when he kicks the bucket.

For various reasons, some siblings may feel aggrieved by the allocation of responsibilities or division of family assets, but keep the resentment to themselves in deference to the old man.

The fight over the estate begins as soon as the mourning period ends.

Settlement

It's good if the differences are amicably settled within the family. Aside from maintaining harmonious relations among the siblings, the resolution keeps the image of the deceased patriarch unsullied in the public eye.

The problem arises when one or more siblings (sometimes with their in-laws' prodding) allow greed or envy people to take over their reasonable selves and go the legal course to claim what they think rightfully belongs to them.

Once the lawyers get into the picture, all bets are off. The fight becomes bruising and no-holds-barring family secret is safe from disclosure.

The media will only be glad to oblige if their conflict are served by the protagonists to wash dirty family linen in public that may be help them in their court battle.

The spectacle of siblings, who in their childhood were genuinely devoted to each other, literally going after each other's throat in the division of their patriarch's assets can be very depressing.

In circumstance like this, the patriarch must be willing in his grave or his mind suffering in distress and anguish because of the failure to carry out his wishes.

It has been said that business conglomerates go through a three-generation cycle: The founder builds the business, his children make it grow, and the grandchildren lose it.

So if the business survives the plan, credit should be given to the founder for instilling good values in his children who, in turn, passed them on to their children, and the result is a group of good genes continue for generations.

(For feedback, please write to rpal-ab@inquirer.com.ph)

BCDA to privatize

Turn to page B3

required bidding documents.

The documents will contain the terms of reference for the bidding, which means that the winning bidder would be responsible for funding the operational requirements of the country's largest railway to including its management, operations and maintenance.

The winner would likewise be tasked with securing the necessary funds for the conduct of periodic maintenance activities on the railway, special, feeder, emergency and other related works, as well as insurance.

BCDA's eventual partner would also be tasked with the provision of management services, bill collection, traffic safety and security management, station railroad maintenance, building, landscaping and generation, and other related services.

As BCDA's partner in running the SCTEx, the winning bidder would have to pay the government firm a semi-annual concession fee of either the gross equivalent of BCDA's net-the-bondsmen' loan, including all financing charges, 10 years prior to due date, or 20 percent of audited gross revenue, whichever is higher.

The loan payment option should be exercised by a five-year rolling horse of credit.

The P27-billion SCTEx was 95-percent funded by a loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation/Japan International Cooperation Agency. The 15-percent balance came from BCDA.

Interested bidders should attend the pre-bid conference on Nov. 10 as this would be where the details of the bidding terms of reference would be discussed and questions about the bidding process answered.

The deadline for the submission of proposals and eligibility documents has been set for noon of Dec. 4.

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK said Andrew Gotianun Sr. (PNB's non-executive director) or Atty. Aquilo Jr. as trust officer and head of the Trust Banking Group with the rank of first senior vice president.

* * *

The BOARD OF DIRECTORS of **Security Bank Corp.** on Oct. 23 confirmed the hiring of Romulo L. Neri as its new president and also has concurrent manager for sales and distribution branch network units. The appointment as retail banking segment, effective Nov. 2.

* * *

METRO ALLIANCE HOLDINGS and Equities Corp. on Oct. 27 elected Pedro E. Magadia as director and member of its audit committee and compensation and remuneration committee, effective immediately. The company also accepted the resignation of director's Hector A. Ting and Emmanuel F. Subido Jr., effective Oct. 27.

* * *

ASIASTAR INVESTMENT BANK INC. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 25 at 2 p.m. in the Manila 888 Function Room, ground floor of the Manila Bankers Association Inc., Muralla cor. Intramuros 1 st. of Oct. 14 will be stockholders of record as of Oct. 23 and will be entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

BENGUET CORP. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. at the Manila Golf and Country Club Inc., Forbes Park, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 23 and will be entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

Compiled by Rebelyn Bautista, Inquirer Research

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Bank Buy Rate	Bank Sell Rate
United States	dollar	1.00000	47.2000	47.3000
Japan	yen	0.01140	0.4700	0.4800
United Kingdom	pound	1.71000	77.2000	77.3000
Hong Kong	dollar	0.06110	6.0900	6.1000
Switzerland	franc	0.45000	44.2000	44.3000
Canada	dollar	0.45000	43.8000	43.9000
Singapore	dollar	0.34000	33.1000	33.2000
Australia	dollar	0.43000	42.7000	42.8000
Kuwait	dinar	0.16000	165.0000	165.2000
Saudi Arabia	riyal	0.12000	12.5000	12.6000
United Arab Emirates	dirham	0.12000	12.8000	12.9000
Indonesia	rupiah	0.00001	0.0048	0.0049
Thailand	baht	0.01000	1.4000	1.4100
Taiwan	dollar	0.01000	1.4000	1.4100
Korea	won	0.00000	0.0400	0.0410
Qatar	riyal	0.12000	12.9000	13.0000
Bahrain	dinar	0.12000	12.5000	12.6000
Oman	rial	0.12000	12.5000	12.6000
Denmark	krone	0.16000	8.4000	8.4500
India	rupee	0.01000	1.0000	1.0100
Norway	krone	0.08000	7.8000	7.8500
Sweden	krona	0.06000	6.8000	6.8500
New Zealand	dollar	0.34000	33.1000	33.2000
Lebanon	pound	0.00000	0.0300	0.0310
Finland	euro	0.06000	6.8000	6.8500

Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines

Gov't spent ₱549B to service debts in first 9 months

By Reuwel W. Daenoga

THE GOVERNMENT SPENT ₱ 124 BILLION in September to service its debts, higher by just 2.2 percent from the ₱90.15 billion paid out in the same month last year as finance officials and analysts rounded the storm on the worsening financing problem given the glitch at state-run telecom companies.

Documents from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that in September, P90.04 billion was spent on interest payments, an increase of 9.2 percent from ₱82.37 billion a year ago.

Another ₱29.41 billion in principal was paid, although that was down 5 percent from ₱30.99 billion in the same month of 2008.

Interest and principal payments made to local lenders were down 6.1 percent to ₱41.45 billion from ₱44.10 billion.

Payments made to foreign creditors were also lower by 7.2 percent at ₱17.82 billion from ₱19.2 billion.

In the nine months to September, the government spent ₱549.02 billion to service its debts, higher by 2.2 percent from the ₱537.31 billion paid out in the same period last year.

From January to September, P295.28 billion was spent on interest payments, 8.2 percent less than the year-ago figure of ₱321.71 billion.

Also, a total of ₱253.73 billion in principal was paid, translating by 3.7 percent from ₱262.30 billion last year.

Interest and principal payments made to local lenders decreased by 4.4 percent to ₱359.01 billion from ₱375.49 billion.

However, payments made to foreign creditors jumped 37.5 percent to ₱190.01 billion from ₱138.09 billion.

For 2009, the government's projected payment for financial obligations is ₱598.3 billion, or 6.7 percent higher than the actual level of ₱560.12.7 billion last year.

Of this year's debt servicing tab, ₱366.6 billion represent principal payments, while ₱231.7 billion account for interest expenses.

This year's debt servicing program accounts for 8.7 percent of GDP compared to last year's 8.2 percent.

In 2008, the government aimed to bring down the debt-to-GDP ratio to 58.7 percent but was only able to pare back 56.7 percent from a nine-year high of 78.2 percent in 2004.

Last week, Singapore-based DBS Bank said that contrary to stated policy, the government is expected to shift from ₱ 1.4 trillion debt to a greater share of its funding needs given its estimated ₱ 559 trillion fiscal shortfall.

DBS said in its latest commentary on the Philippines that the government would continue to rely heavily on foreign currency debts, especially to plug next year's expected budget deficit of ₱333.4 billion.

Stocks close 1.58% lower

By Angelique Ki

In this end, investors will be looking for signs of lower earnings when local companies announce their third quarters figures soon, he said.

"Estimates of certain might have gone up because of the typhoons and the like in oil prices," he added.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell 0.19 percent to ₱2,565, while Meycauayan Corp. dropped 3.79 percent to ₱1.52. Ayala Land Inc. slipped 4.54 percent to ₱30.50.

But top-traded Philex Mining Corp. banked the most, rising 2.50 percent to ₱10.75.

-AFP

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week (Oct. 27, 2009)	Last Week (Oct. 20, 2009)
Stock Fund - Peso	1.79101	1.75195
Managed Fund - Peso	1.69893	1.66766
Growth Fund - Peso	1.61888	1.58709
Equity Fund - Peso	1.43051	1.39758
Stock Fund - US Dollar	1.01366	1.00471
Dynamic Plan Fund 1	1.0000	1.0000
Dynamic Plan Fund 2	1.0000	1.0000
Protective Fund - Peso	1.00000	1.00000
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.01179	1.01161

IMF raises forecast for Asia's economic growth

Region to outpace growth in West thanks to stimulus programs

HONG KONG—ASIAN economies from China to India will grow faster than expected through next year, far outpacing recoveries in the West, thanks to aggressive government stimulus spending and a pickup in global trade, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday.

But the region's rapid expansion will remain below the levels seen in the decade before the economic crisis as consumers in the United States and other large industrialized nations curtail their spending on Asian-made electronics, cars and other goods in the face of rising unemployment and other legacies of the downturn, the fund said in a report.

"Asia has not decoupled from the rest of the world," the IMF said, making into a broader debate over whether the region's economies can shrug off the Great Recession.

In fact, Asia's fortunes remain closely tied to that of the global economy."

The Washington-based fund raised its forecast for Asia, saying it now expects the region's economy that spans countries from New Zealand to India would grow 2.7% percent in 2009 and 5.7% percent in 2010. That's still below the average of 6.7 percent over the past decade. Both projections were about 1.5 percentage points stronger than those released by the fund in May.

Economies in the seven leading developed countries, meanwhile, were seen as shrinking by about 3.5 percent this year and growing only 1.25 percent next year.

"The main risk is that the global recovery stalls," said Roberto Cardarelli, an IMF researcher. "Despite the recent improvements in the pace of recovery, it is going to be slow."

Asian countries have been leading a recovery in the world economy, with growth accelerating after governments across the region loosened monetary policies and unleashed a torrent of spending to help shelter their companies and consumers from the drop-off in global trade and finance.

China's economy, the world's third largest, expanded at an 8.9 percent pace in the third quarter on the back of lavish government stimulus and bank lending. In South Korea, the economy grew last quarter at its fastest rate in over seven years.

China was expected to continue outperforming its economy growing 8.5 percent in 2009 and 9 percent in 2010, the IMF said. But Japan, the world's No. 2 economy, would lag behind, contracting 5.5 percent this year before turning second next year with 1.75 percent growth.

Pitch only about half the region's stimulus carried out so far, government measures will have lent economies over the next several quarters, the IMF said.

Underlining those measures will require Asian governments to walk a fine line between supporting economic activity and fighting inflation.

Europe for China, India and Australia, other economies are waging quicker recoveries than Japan, Asian countries should ease government policies continue to ramp up their economies next year, the fund said. Asia can't restrict the easy flow of money, even though interest rates follow other monetary tightening, won't be necessary anywhere near because recoveries are still fragile and risks of inflation low. AP

US economy returns to growth path in Q3

WASHINGTON—THE ECONOMY appears back on its feet after being knocked over by the worst recession since the 1930s.

The big question: Will it still be standing after government support is gone?

Many analysts expect the economy returned to growth in the July-September quarter, accounting for the end of four straight quarters of contraction, the first time that's happened on records dating to 1947.

A turnaround would be the strongest signal yet that the economy has entered a new, bright phase of recovery and that the recession, which started in December 2007, has ended.

The third-quarter growth rate forecast by Thomson Reuters would be the best showing since a 3.8 percent pace logged in the third quarter of 2007.

Beating the rebound: Many sales of cars and homes spurred by government support programs.

"It's good to have the economy growing again, we'll take it. But we don't think that rate of growth is sustainable because it is distorted by all the government stimulus," said Brian Bethune, economist at IHS Global Insight. "The challenge here is to get organic growth—growth that self-helped by the economy."

Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke and members of President Barack Obama's economic team have warned that the nascent recovery won't be robust enough to prevent the unemployment rate—now at a 26-year high of 9.8% percent—from rising into next year.

Economists say the jobless rate probably nudged up to 9.9 percent in October and will go as high as 10.5 percent around the middle of next year before declining gradually. The government is scheduled to release the October jobless rate report next week.

The number of new people signing up for unemployment benefits probably nudged down to 521,000 last week, economists predict, as another report due out today. Still, the number of people continuing to draw aid is expected to stay unusually elevated at around 5.6 million.

Many economists predict economic activity won't grow as much in the months ahead as the housing impact of Obama's $787 billion package of tax-cut government spending and tax cuts fades. AP

PEOPLE walk by a Japan Airlines' ticket bureau at JAL Plaza in Tokyo. A government-appointed panel recommended that struggling Japan Airlines seek public rescue funds. AP

JAL seeks 'huge' gov't bailout

TOKYO—JAPAN AIRLINES CORP. SEEK is would apply for assistance from a state-backed corporate turnaround body, setting the stage for a large injection of public funds into the troubled airline.

The government-appointed committee to secure financing and map out a restructuring plan for JAL, which is headed for its fourth annual loss in five years, weighed down by $15 billion in debt and crippling legacy costs.

JAL, Asia's largest airline by revenue, said it would preliminary talks with the Enterprise Turnaround Initiative Corp., a body of turnaround specialists established by the government this month to buy debt of and invest in struggling but viable firms.

"JAL will need huge money, large public money, through both capital and loans," said Shintaro Takagi, head of the transport ministry's task force trying to rescue JAL. "We have decided the ETIC will be suitable for the public money."

The ETIC will decide on whether it can help JAL after studying its assets and its restructuring plan, which could take months.

"The government is expected to accept JAL's request for turnaround assistance, as the airline is a special case in view of the heavy industry regulation by the transport ministry and the oligopolistic market," said Yoshitaka Shitaka, chief economist at RBS Securities.

Transport Minister Seiji Maehara said that reviving the airline was very important to the Japanese economy.

"JAL's operation covers more than a half of Japan's sky and considering its global network and how it connects regional economies, its network is extremely important for Japan's economy, welfare for our policy," Maehara told parliament.

JAL shares closed Thursday up 2.7 percent at 135 yen, outperforming a 1.8 percent fall in the Nikkei average.

The Nikkei business daily reported the government was considering a scenario having the reduction of pension benefits to retirees of the struggling airline if it received public funds, which would address a key hurdle to its survival.

Japanese media have said JAL may need some 800 billion yen ($8.8 billion) for future retirement and pension payments, double the 400 billion yen bailout in its corporate pension system.

Senior Vice Finance Minister Naoki Mitsuishi said the government could not guarantee bridge loans or the troubled carrier without unanimous approval of cabinet.

The government's plans to submit Japan Inc.'s first budget next year, though differing views within the government make it unclear what provisions the bill will contain, the Nikkei said.

Another proposal is for the state-owned Development Bank of Japan—already JAL's biggest lender—to take a further 200 billion yen this year and for the state to guarantee the loans once the legislation is passed, the Nikkei said. Reuters

Asia shares fall sharply on new jitters

HONG KONG—ASIAN SHARES FELL sharply yesterday after weak US economic data rekindled investor worries about growth, while hedge funds sold risky assets, lifting the yen and supporting the dollar.

European stock index futures pointed to a lower open, adding to the previous session's sell-off and mirroring the sharp drop on Wall Street.

Asian investors were unnerved by a surprise slump in US home sales last month, which followed a decline in consumer confidence, highlighting risks to a recovery in the world's biggest economy.

The MSCI index of Asia Pacific stocks traded outside Japan slid 2.4 percent while the Thomson Reuters index of regional shares was down 1.4 percent, marking a third session of losses.

"Everybody's been calling for a correction, but I think the speed and volume of what we're seeing has caught the market by surprise," said Ben Potter, a research analyst at IG Markets in Australia, where shares tumbled 2.9 percent.

"There has been a big change in underlying sentiment which has triggered fairly alarm bells."

Asian stocks have been among the strongest performers this year though analysts and policymakers have been saying opportunity to play the Asia growth story.

Disappointing US home sales data on Wednesday overshadowed news that US durable goods orders rose for the second time in three months and raised fears that US growth spurred by government stimulus may falter. Data today would fall short of forecasts for 3.5 percent annualized growth. Reuters

Japan's factory output rises

TOKYO—JAPAN'S FACTORY OUTPUT ROSE for the seventh straight month in September, as recovering global trade boosted demand for the country's cars and electronics.

Industrial production—a key barometer of the country's economic health—rose 1.4 percent from August and "continues to show an upward movement," the government said Thursday.

The figure outpaced a 1 percent rise forecast in a Kyodo News agency survey of economists. Strong gaining manufacturers of information equipment, transportation and electrical machinery contributed to the gain, according to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's monthly report.

The latest numbers offer encouraging signs of growth in the world's second biggest economy, which fell into its worst recession since World War II earlier this year.

Stimulus spending by governments around the world, particularly China, is reviving sales of Japanese products. Exports in September fell by the smallest margin in 10 months on a year.

At home, consumer incentives are also driving demand for new fiscally appliances and cars.

Production is expected to continue expanding for the third straight quarter in October-December after posting a 7.2 percent rise in the July-September period. The ministry predicts output will grow 2.1 percent in October and 0.1 percent in November.

Shipments rose 3.4 percent, while inventories slipped 0.5 percent.

Still, some economists tempered their confidence of Japan's prospects with predictions the current growth may not last.

The country's economy is still in a trough at record highs of 5.5 percent as companies remain wary of spending and hiring. Concerns about deflation are also mounting after prices in Japan tumbled at a record pace in August.

A more complete snapshot of Japan's economy will be released by the government tomorrow when employment and consumer price index data for September. AP

Shell, ENI profits tumble

LONDON—OIL MAJORS ROYAL Dutch Shell Plc and Eni reported of a slow recovery, highlighting weak energy demand and spectacular challenges, as their profits slumped.

Shell, Europe's largest oil company by market value, said it was earning 3,000 jobs to tackle the tough economic environment.

The results and pessimistic outlook contrast with third-quarter earnings from rivals Exxon Mobil BP Plc which smashed forecasts by 16 percent, lifting senior shares on Tuesday on hopes the industry would weather the economic slump better than expected.

They also follow renewed fears the global economic recovery may be more protracted that some had thought, a factor which weighed on crude prices on Thursday.

"We see some indications that energy demand and pricing are improving, but the outlook remains very uncertain, and we are not expecting a quick recovery," Chief Executive Peter Voser said in a statement.

Miuch-hated Xst predicted European demand for natural gas and fuels would remain subdued, and said it was cutting its production target for the year.

Shell said third-quarter earnings fell 69 percent to $2.69 billion, slightly ahead of an average forecast of $2.65 billion from a Reuters poll of eight analysts.

Eni's third-quarter adjusted net profit, which also strips out inventory gains and non-operating items, fell 68.3 percent to 1.71 billion euros ($2.56 billion) with a Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S consensus of 1.11 billion. Reuters

American Airlines, US Airways plan job cuts

CHICAGO—AMERICAN AIRLINES PARent AMR Corp. and US Airways Group said they would cut jobs and tweak their operations to better match the travel market, which struggles to recover from the economic recession.

Gerard Arpey, AMR's chairman, said although there have been reported tentative signs of a rebound in demand for business travel.

AMR, in a letter to employees, said it would "review and reshape" its maintenance and engineering operations to better meet the needs of its customers.

The company said it would wind down all operations at its Kansas City Maintenance Base next year after it closes the location in September.

The changes will affect operations in other locations throughout its system, including the St. Louis line operations, which will be downsized.

"So for the others, I think more cuts would be prudent."

The airline industry has been battered in the last 12 months as the recession crushed travel demand.

Carriers responded by slashing capacity, although they have also leave reported tentative signs of a rebound in demand for business travel.

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The changes will affect operations in other locations throughout its system, including the St. Louis line operations, which will be downsized.

"Unfortunately, these changes will cause a reduction of up to 700 positions, both management and union, in the MRE and supporting departments' workforce," Corinne Namiata, AMR's senior vice president of maintenance and engineering, said in the letter.

The 700 job cuts represent about 8 percent of AMR's 11,700 MRE employees systemwide. The company said it would offer "voluntary separation options" for its unionized workforce.

US Airways, meanwhile, said it would cut its staff by 1,000, or 3 percent, to concentrate on its "network strengths," which are its hubs in Charlotte, Philadelphia and Phoenix, as well as Washington D.C. and its shuttle between New York, Boston and Washington.

The airline said it would reduce service in Las Vegas and end service in Colorado Springs and Wichita.

The company said it would reposition its crew bases in Philadelphia, Charlotte, Phoenix and Washington D.C. by closing bases in Boston, Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

The Los Angeles and LaGuardia bases are expected to close on Jan. 31, and Boston will close on May 2, 2010, the airline said.

The staff reductions will occur in the first half of 2010, US Airways said.

Airline shares were broadly weaker on Wednesday with the term airline index down 4.6 percent.

AMR shares were down 9.3 percent percent at $5.36 on the New York Stock Exchange.

US Airways shares were 2 cents lower to $3.31, also on the NYSE. Reuters

Contribution of remittances to GNP seen shrinking

By Michelle V. Ramos

REMITTANCES SENT BY FILIPINOS overseas, which now account for 10 percent of the gross national product, may no longer contribute as much to the economy seven years from now.

This was according to state-owned development bank of the Philippines, which said the economy needed to prepare itself for the time when it would no longer receive a substantial boost from the money sent by overseas Filipino workers.

"Currently, remittances are a major growth driver and it will continue to be in the next seven years. After that, however, things may change," Reynal de David, DBP president and chief executive officer, told reporters yesterday.

David was one of the speakers during a business forum organized by the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP).

Over the medium to long term, he said, more and more OFWs and their families were expected to live permanently in their host countries. As a result, he said, remittances sent to the Philippines would likely shrink.

By the time that happens, he said, the Philippines should have already strengthened its economy and that growth would be sustained even with the money sent from abroad.

Currently, remittances contribute about 10 percent of the country's GNP and fuel consumption, which accounts for 70 percent of the gross domestic product.

GNP is the sum of the values of goods produced and services rendered by Filipinos, both here and abroad. GDP is the sum of the values of goods produced and services rendered within the country, both by Filipinos and foreigners.

David said the Philippines had the potential of making the economy less reliant on remittances, but that there have to be maximized. He said industries like the business process outsourcing and medical tourism were some of those that could grow exponentially over the medium to long term, adding up for the best income opportunity due to the possible shrinking of remittances.

The BPO executive said a likely decline in remittances seven years from now was not a concern. He said it was actually the government's long-term objective to encourage OFWs to return to the Philippines especially when the domestic economy was already much more developed to provide sufficient income opportunities for them.

David said DBP, which was tasked by the government to implement programs catering to the needs of OFWs, aimed to help achieve the goal of making OFWs return to the Philippines and generate higher incomes here.

"We have a concrete quest for long term solutions that will make our great workers return to the Philippines, where they truly belong," David said.

There are about 9 million Filipinos documented to be working abroad.

In 2008, remittances to the Philippines reached $16.4 billion. This made the Philippines the fourth largest recipient of remittances. The top 3 are China, India and Mexico.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expects remittances to grow by 4 percent this year. DBP projects the same to rise by 3.6 percent.

The growth projections for remittances this year are much slower than the double-digit growths recorded in the past several years. Last year, the $16.4 billion in remittances received represented a 13-percent growth over the level in the previous year.

The slowdown in the growth of remittances was attributed to the contraction in the economies of the United States and European countries, where many Filipinos are based.

Perks for RE investors ready by Q1

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE Energy Board (NREB) said it would have ready the complete system of the incentive package for investors in the renewable energy sector.

According to NREB chair Arthur Aguilar, the board targets to submit policy recommendations to the Department of Energy (DOE) on net metering system, renewable portfolio standards and the preliminary standards on net metering to the Department of Energy and Energy Regulatory Commission in the first quarter of 2010.

"We envisage full implementation of these mechanisms as early as the second quarter of 2010," Aguilar said.

These mechanisms are awaited by the investors as these would determine the price of electricity each for different renewable energy sources, as well as the volume of electricity that distribution utilities would be required to buy from power generation companies.

Also, the incentives provided by the law and the feed-in tariff rates would determine the viability of their projects.

Feed-in tariff are regulated incentive structures that typically pay premiums for the electricity generated from renewable energy sources that are connected to the main grid.

The EPD requires electricity utilities to obtain a certain portion of their electricity from clean, indigenous renewable energy sources.

Currently, Aguilar said NREB was looking at the feed-in tariff systems of other countries such as Germany, Denmark, 22 states (Florida) and Canada (Ontario).

"We want to learn from their experiences," he added.

Aguilar said the board had to consult with stakeholders, particularly with the power generation companies and the distribution utilities to determine what percentage of electricity from renewable energy sources could the grid absorb.

Initially, the NREB was planning to submit the proposals in April 2010, according to board member Honorio C. Reyes.

"Ultimately, the NREB would want the feed-in-tariff system—at least for the country's three main grids...as we presented on June 12, 2010, exactly a year after the signing of the implementing rules and regulations governing the renewable Energy Law," Reyes said in an earlier interview with the business.

He said the board was also hoping to come up by 2010 or 2011 with the feed-in-tariff system for power generation companies that never was connected to the main grid.

AirPhils operates turboprop fleet

AIR PHILIPPINES HAS STARTED OPERATing eight Bombardier turboprop aircraft leased from Philippine Airlines (PAL).

The aircraft will fly to 19 routes and cities, operating any of two hubs—Manila and Cebu. The airline will follow a new business model focusing on delivering safe, affordable and quality service.

A new management team was appointed to implement the airline's new business model: David Lim, Air Philippines' new president, and Jesus Ebreo, EVP and COO, were tasked to run each the airline's conversion to a low-cost business airline with a leaner workforce.

The turboprop fleet consists of Canadian built Bombardier Q-series that boasts of the latest in noise and vibration reduction technology. The 50-seater Q300 and 78-seater Q400 aircraft offer generous legroom and a very quiet cabin. "Q" stands for "quiet."

Air Philippines serves the following destinations out of its hub in Manila: Tuguegarao, San Jose (Mindoro Occidental), Naga, Virac, Masbate, Catarman, Calbayog, Tacloban and Hilongos. From Cebu, Air Philippines flies to Kalibo, Iloilo, Dumaguete, Tacloban, Butuan, Ozamiz, Cagayan de Oro, Gen. Santos, Zamboanga and from Camiguin to Davao.

Operations to Caticlan for Boracay traffic will resume as soon as runway improvements are completed. Additional routes to Laoag, Virginia and Mindanao are being evaluated for future operations.

In Sulu, as in New York

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

THE POPULAR SONG "NEW YORK, New York" has a well-known line: "If I can make it there, I can make it anywhere."

Subic is not New York, but there is something similar about the two places: They are both tough nuts to live in. On Oct. 27, at the annual meeting of the Management Association of the Philippines-Agribusiness Countryside and Development Foundation Inc. (MAP-ABCDF), the question was asked: "Can a group of experienced Makati-based agribusiness executives contribute anything substantial to the away folks?"

Background

The MAP-ABCDF website (www.map-abcdf.com.ph) extols a group of people that banded together "to promote agribusiness and countryside development that promotes ventures and technologies." They have contributed: In "freely give personal time and effort as individual contributors toward the successful accomplishment of the foundation's goals."

A key MAP-ABCDF activity is "to conduct monthly forums to provide up-to-date information and to discuss current relevant issues ... [to] derive take home and useful value."

In addition, they commit "to continue our outreach "farmerversity" program that brings volunteer experience and knowledge to the rural areas for the appropriate transfer of technology and management disciplines."

The Subic experience

Has MAP-ABCDF been fulfilling its mission? In last Tuesday's meeting, two guests from Subic answered this question. They were Princess Lala Bhardwaj, great granddaughter of the late Subian who when Subic was extended to Philippine territory, sold her Makati-based Subic trolleycars, to Gaganos. They said that in seven short months, the MAP-ABCDF had already made a significant impact in Subic.

Gaganos narrates what happened: "Princess Lala inherited the leadership of a large group of Subic Bhardwaj under a rather complex set of Subian's original forebear. She now felt it was her responsibility to improve their lives. But the lands under her grew mostly unused and

COMMENTARY

traffic using inefficient and inefficient methods. Despite the considerable distance, there was no ready market with the resulting low prices."

In April 2009, Gaganos brought Princess Lala to San Miguel Corp. for possible sub-contract contract arrangements. This yielded benefits within months. SMC now provides the technical assistance and the guaranteed market. But in an effort to maximize Lala's service to her people, she and Gaganos went to the open weekly MAP-ABCDF forum where they had heard so much about. Since that time, either of them or both has consistently been present at all the fora forums.

Profitable applications

Why not? Gaganos asked. "The weekly topics are very powerful for employment generation and revenue enhancement. What is even more beneficial are the people I meet from different disciplines who help us with our current or potential projects for Subic."

He gives some examples. After a talk on the rules added from virgin coconut oil that is not exploited properly by the Subic coconut farmers, she approached businessman-inventor Julius Labindao. Labindao garnished her a low-cost P27,000 machine that processes virgin coconut oil from 200 coconuts a day with a payback of less than a year.

This was based on successful in Subic that 30 more units have already been ordered. With increased operation and better quality control, the virgin coconut oil they currently produce may soon pass the stringent standards for export.

Already another MAP-ABCDF member and former agribusiness multinational executive Jorge Montanda has said he would purchase their virgin coconut oil for undetermined dividends.

Another example is Lala's specialty coffee using only red beans from Subic. At present, this fetches a low market price because it is sold only in bulk without any packaging. After talking to Bong Goyo, vice president of the Foundation for People Development, Lala now has an agreement that she will sell the coffee to Goyo, who will then take care of packaging, labeling and marketing in high value-seller outlets here and possibly abroad.

There are examples are only additions to the future prospect of diversified vegetable production inspired by the MAP-ABCDF field visit to Rep. Proceso Alcala's projects in Barlayan, Quezon; the concept of mushroom fruits as a nutritional vegetable production promise of the Subic Bhardwaj have a general aversion to chemical fertilizers for the international market; and the adoption of new technologies for the products that Subic-type producers in traditional and conflict areas.

Conclusion

MAP-ABCDF seems to be living up to its mission of bringing agribusiness expertise and technology to the countryside. For more information, call Gaganos at 8911 4458871 or the MAP-ABCDF secretariat's hotline: Yip at 63-8114000. Better yet, come to the open weekly forum every Tuesday. As the song "New York, New York" goes, if MAP-ABCDF made it in Subic, maybe it can make it anywhere.

The author is chair of Agrinewsph, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects. For inquiries, e-mail agrinewsph@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 9221127.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
Metrobank Group

BALANCE SHEET
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 30, 2009

ASSETS AMOUNT

LIABILITIES

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Meralco clinches three quills.

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) garnered three awards for Communication Management and Skills at the 2009 Philippine Quill Awards of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Meralco's internal newsletter, The Meralco News, won the Award of Excellence in the Communication Skills category. Two Awards of Merit were also received for the power distributor for the Meralco News Special Supplement Coverage on Typhoon Ondoy and its Corporate Website Skills category and for Meralco's Performance Based-Regulation (PBR) communication campaign. With it in the Quill, which prevailed in the Communication Management Category. Receiving the award on behalf of Meralco were (from left) Meralco Public Relations Representative Michael D. Garcia, Meralco Financial Communications Manager Joe R. Zaldarriaga, Meralco Vice President and Head for Corporate Marketing Miguel L. Lopez, Senior Vertex Patricia B. Abad and Internal Communications Manager Ma. Teresita T. Bueno. They are accompanied by IABC-1 Network's Cliff Arce and current IABC President Rey David. Inset photo shows members of Meralco's Corporate Marketing Group.

CHANGING THE WORLD ONE VAN, ONE BUSINESS AT A TIME

Ur Van, Ur Business Program Special
Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

Manila, Philippines (October 2009)—These photos were part of the Ur Van, Ur Business Program's entry until then. But when Universal Motors Corporation Sdn. Sendirian Bhd. (hereafter U Van Business (UVUB) Program, in short), it needed to find another type of vehicle marketing and its role in the development of the country.

UVUB started out as a vehicle for the mass entrepreneurship agenda of the Filipinos. It provides and encourages entrepreneurship on the way to a better and organized life with the versatile Hyundai Starex as the vital business partner.

At its very core though, UVUB is not only a marketing program. It is an advocacy, a commitment to contribute to the empowerment and improvement of the Filipino society with the underlying principle of helping others help themselves. The rationale is the realization that we have the responsibility to help the Filipino people sell their products so that it will then be easier to sell, uplift, and support those who have less in life.

Under the UVUB program, the proponent is the non-profit organization Center for Community Transformation (CCT) for every Hyundai Starex unit sold. The program provides the necessary capital, entrepreneurial mentoring/coaching, as well as product knowledge/ merchandising/ work ethic training that would help the beneficiaries of the UVUB program to start a small business enterprise.

Today, UVUB has helped over 3,000 families and enabled in the creation of more than 4,000 industrial jobs.

The UVUB program has helped entrepreneurs from all other people and on society, as a whole. UVUB partnered with SOS Foundation and the ABS-CBN Foundation (Tulong Ng Pag-Asa) and "Kuya Boy Logro" (Survivor of the Typhoon 2009 disaster) to transport help recently at the Marikit Shangri-la Hotel. UVUB honored selected entrepreneurs who have shown progress in commercializing the concept, development of business success and social awareness among them.

Recipient of the 2009 Inspiring Entrepreneur Award was Rosario Reyes, Jr., more popularly known as Rhoda Reyes. Reyes's inspiring rags-to-riches story has been retold many times and his entrepreneurial spirit and marketing contributions to the beauty industry are well-acclaimed.

Beyond the gift, glamour and success though is a compassionate man. Reyes is a pioneer in Filipino's numerous charities and beneficiaries. He runs the nationwide livelihood program Hanap-buhayng Ating Ugat, which helps people from impoverished communities to become hairdressers. Reyes is also the founder of ARS Reyes Center for Beauty Improvement and Development, a 2010 free hairstyle training/ skill center.

The UVUB Social Awareness Award was also given to Mercedes Ann Gonzales-Ong, President of The Distillers Coffee Company, Inc. Affectedly Young, a native of Bulacan Agapay, decided to put up a coffee enterprise that would benefit the native coffee farmers by establishing a fair trade practice and protecting them from exploitation. At the same time, the company aims to promote the rich cultural heritage of the Cordillera region.

Eventually, the company established Coffee Aid (Association for Indigenous Development) to empower coffee farming communities by providing them with volunteer and investment opportunities and spearheading various community livelihood development projects.

Both awardees share UVUB program's vision of being a catalyst in the realization of every Filipino's entrepreneurial dream for a more developed and productive society as well as the mission in uplift the face of as many Filipinos as possible.

Both awardees are testaments to UVUB's belief that becoming an entrepreneur choice excluding not only yourself but also empowering the lives of countless others.

As his motto goes, Lito Gonzales Vice President of Universal Motors Corporation and founder of the UVUB program, says "Becoming an entrepreneur gives one the opportunity to make a difference in other people's lives and we are all in the business of changing lives for the better."

Chinese Yuan for travel and for keeps

Since opening its doors to the public for tourism in the late 1970s, China has become one of the most visited countries in the world, attracting over 50 million foreign tourists in a year. According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), China's aim to become the largest tourist country and the fourth largest for overseas travel by the year 2020.

If you want to prepare for yourself this "corner of the world," get organized and plan your itinerary. Decide on the length of your stay in China. Among the most popular destinations in China include Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou, Xian, Tibet, and Guangzhou.

Consider also the timing of your visit. The season will greatly impact your preparation. For your trip, as well as your level of enjoyment during your stay. China has wide-ranging climate conditions that span the four seasons.

Finally, among the most important aspects to take into account when traveling is currency. The legal tender of the People's Republic of China is the Renminbi, which literally translates to "people's currency," the official name is the Chinese Yuan or CNY, and is referred to as Kuai in colloquial Chinese. The currency is used primarily in mainland China. The currencies are different for Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, which use the Hong Kong Dollar, Pataca, and New Taiwan Dollar, respectively.

"The Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company (Metrobank) is the first local bank to offer CNY-denominated products and services, namely a passbook savings account and time deposit, in the Philippines".

It is advisable to exchange even a small amount of your local currency for CNY when traveling to China although there are places in China where you can exchange your local money, you may experience difficulties especially if you will be visiting places that are situated in the rural areas.

In general, China has relatively reasonable rates – from meals to train tickets. But the amount of CNY you should bring or have access to will depend on your itinerary and the level of comfort you require.

If you plan to travel frequently to China, a good option would be to open a CNY peso/cash savings account. This enables you to access CNY easily and securely anytime you need to. On the same note, keeping your CNY in a bank account will let it earn interest. Also, you can withdraw reserves of a currency that continues to strengthen. So even if you will not be visiting China for now, having a CNY account gives you significant advantages.

The Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company (Metrobank) is the first local bank to offer CNY-denominated products and services, namely a passbook savings account and time deposit, in the Philippines. Customers will also be able to buy and SELL CNY against the US Dollar or Philippine Peso.

The Metrobank CNY interest-bearing passbook savings account requires a minimum average daily balance of CNY 1,000.00. Deposits over CNY 100,000 require a one-day notice, while withdrawals are subject to a three-day notice. The Metrobank CNY time deposit is available in terms of one month, two months, three months, six months, and one year.

Metrobank is the country's premier commercial bank. The Bank has an extensive nationwide network that spans over 1,100 conveniently located touchpoints, including nationwide ATM local branches, and 25 foreign branches, subsidiaries and representative offices. For inquiries about Metrobank CNY products and services, please contact Metrobank's 24/7 Customer Care Hotline at 882-3300, or log on to www.metrobank.com.ph. For personalized service, call toll-free 1-800-10-882-3300.

PIDS pushing for traditional growth strategies

Investments in rural areas, limiting population growth

By Ganiel N. Dantinga

A GOVERNMENT THINK TANK yesterday said traditional strategies were crucial in pushing the Philippines toward recovery from the impacts of the global financial crisis.

These strategies include the promotion of investments in the rural sector and in quality basic education, as well as limiting population growth.

In its latest study released yesterday, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) said these policies had been promulgated in the era of Asian economic powerhouse like Singapore, South Korea and Japan.

"The 2008 global and economic financial crisis magnified the existing structural problems underlying the Philippine economy," PIDS said in the paper penned by Josef T. Yap, Jesus B. Cuenca and Celia H. Reyes.

"It behooves the government to use the current crisis as opportunity to change and support badly-needed reforms," it added.

According to the three economists, it is most important to encourage investments in areas that require significant amount of labor such as the rural sector, where there is a high degree of underemployment and low productivity.

"Increased public investment in rural infrastructure and provision of extension services are ideal for raising productivity in agriculture," they said in the paper.

"A rise in productivity in the farms will also benefit the nonfarm rural economy."

They cited as an example rural roads and rural electrification as missing links that would directly facilitate the expansion of the non-farm sector.

In turn, increased incomes from improved farm productivity will raise demand for the non-farm part of the farm sector.

Another crucial move is to push forward strategic industrialization, by encouraging small- to medium-sized firms to source their inputs from domestic firms as what the Singaporean government did under its Local Industry Upgrading program.

This resulted to linking domestic small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into allocative input and service suppliers.

"This can also be used to integrate domestic SMEs—which are more labor-intensive than large firms—into growth in net," the paper said.

"The idea is that while industrialization is largely attributed to large-scale enterprises, advantageous with small and scaling production economies exploited widely."

"In cases where globalization and competition have already exposed big firms to new capital-intensive production technologies developed in industrial countries, these firms can turn around and engage domestic SMEs for support production services," the paper added.

Such "local production synergy" is likened to the link pursued by Japan to avoid dependence on imports. Further, the PIDS raised the importance of pursuing basic mass resource programs for functionality which means good basic education, rather than for a tertiary level diploma for the majority of the students.

Without this dimension, education would continue to fuel migration from rural to urban areas or as cradle of trained workers abroad.

As for the sticky issue of population, PIDS said moderating growth would also be critical to maximizing savings/investments, particularly for the Philippines where moderate economic growth failed to reduce unemployment rates.

Benguet subsidiary inks off-take deal

By Elan T. Clichandra

BENGUET CORP. THE COMPANY whose mines, said its subsidiary Benguet Nickel Mines Inc. (BNMI), signed an off-take and contractor agreement with Sino-Phil (Surigao) Group Ltd. and Sinophil (CDO) Corp.

The deal, signed on Oct. 28, covers "specific areas" in Benguet Corp.'s 1,696-hectare Nic Cruz nickel project in Zambales.

The agreement calls for the mining and sale of low grade nickel and high grade iron ores for the next three years.

Benguet Corp. corporate secretary Hermogenes H. Ibasi said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that the off-take deal assured BNMI a ready market for iron ores with low nickel content (low grade nickel) and high iron content (high grade iron).

A similar deal was recently forged with DMCI Mining Corp.

BMCI Mining is also set to explore and develop certain areas in the Benguet Corp.'s Nic Cruz nickel mine. This, after the Consunji-led miner suspended nickel and ore mining activities in the province last July due to low nickel prices in the world market.

But prices of low grade nickel and high grade iron products are expected to improve "in the near term," Benguet Corp. said.

As previously disclosed, the BNMI will undertake the operation of Benguet Corp.'s nickel laterite mine.

The mine is covered by an approved mineral production sharing agreement.

Benguet Corp. has appointed First Metro Investment Corp. as financial advisor for the nickel project.

Piltel 9-mo profit rises by 125%

Meralco unaudited net income up 41.7%

By Amy R. Borja

MANILA ELECTRIC CO., THE country's biggest power distributor, said its unaudited net income for the first nine months rose 41.7 percent to P5.3 billion, despite posting lower revenue.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Meralco said its consolidated revenue dipped by 1.2 percent to P181 billion in the first three quarters due to lower generation and transmission charges.

Its consolidated core net income, however, surged by 66.7 percent to P8.9 billion during the nine-month period from a year ago level of P5.3 billion.

The rise in income was mainly due to the 17.6 percent increase in distribution revenue attributable to the implementation of the 2008 Over/Under-Recovery mechanism, based on tariff rates starting May 2009, as the distribution rate adjustment after almost five years.

In the first nine months of 2009, Meralco said its cash obligations paid down principal debts amounting to P68.69 billion and customer refunds under Phase 4B of P1.283 billion or a total outlay of P13.972 billion.

"The company's debts are mainly denominated in peso and the maturities are well spread out, with most of the debt repayments due in 2013," Meralco said.

This month, Meralco had refinanced P3 billion worth of maturing debt and is continuously monitoring refinancing opportunities of its remaining debts as its credit standing strengthens, and market terms for borrowing improve.

"In addition, the recent ratings upgrade of Meralco to 'B' with positive outlook by Standard & Poor's should present the company with more opportunities to take fund for expansion projects," it added.

Since January 2009, energy sales steadily recovered ending with a growth of 1.1 percent as of end-September.

"The first nine months of 2009 saw growth driven mainly by the residential and commercial sectors, which accounted for 72.3 percent of the total 26,382 gigawatt-hours sold," the company said.

Energy sold to the industrial sector for the first nine months of 2009 remains to be lower than the volume sold for the same period in 2008.

Sustained remittances, low inflation and electricity prices, and the number of holidays in August and September were the main reasons for the increase in residential sales.

Trade, transport, energy and communication sub-sectors led sales of the commercial customer.

Gains from deal with Smart

By Doris C. Dumlao

PILIPINO TELEPHONE CORP. booked a 125-percent growth in net profit in the first nine months to P17.8 billion over a year ago, mainly due to a one-time gain from the sale of cellular phone operations to parent company Smart Communications.

Apart from the P7.6 billion net gain from the sale of assets to Smart, Piltel also generated mark-to-market gain from an unchangeable note that had been swapped for shares of power retailer Manila Electric Co. Excluding these non-recurring items, Piltel's core net income went up by 8 percent to P8.5 billion in the first nine months over a year ago, boosted by a reduction in the corporate income tax as well as the application of an optional standard deduction method in computing its net taxable income, the company disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

"This quarter marks the transition to Piltel's nonoperations from being a cellular operator to a holding company whose primary asset and source of income will be its 20-percent holding in Meralco," Piltel president Napoleon Nazareno said.

"We look forward to working together with Meralco in creating synergies that will add value to all shareholders," he added.

Piltel booked P2.8 billion in net income from discontinued operations in the nine-month period ending September.

The company's cellular assets, subscriber base and Talk N' Text trademark were transferred to Smart effective Aug. 17.

Treasury gains were booked from the unchangeable note issued by First Philippine Utilities Corp., with face value of P2 billion which Piltel exchanged for 22.32 million shares of Meralco, this brought Piltel's total Meralco holdings to 22.33 million or the 1.1 billion issued shares.

Piltel's financial reports now included Meralco's financial results under the equity accounting method. For the period July 15 to September 2009, the equity share in Meralco's earnings accounted for P960.3 million of Piltel's revenues.

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UBS . . .
From page B1

cast for Singapore, 6 percent for Malaysia, 6 percent for Thailand and 0 percent for Indonesia.

With a relatively buoyant outlook, however said central banks is under emerging markets would likely start raising interest rates by next year, maybe even ahead of the modest normality tightening by the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and Bank of England. These major Western central banks were projected to shift to a cycle of monetary tightening by the second half of next year.

In the case of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, UBS is projecting a 50-basis point increase in the key policy rates by the second quarter of 2010.

Asked whether the 2010 presidential elections in the Philippines would dampen investor sentiment on the country, Ostrovsky said: "Risk aversion is going to decline among international investors over the next one or two years as they will be more interested in higher risk assets. So that generally means there will be less concern on political risks."

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MIA Administration Building, MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila

Invitation to Bid for Rebuild/Outfitting of Fire Detection and Alarm System Installed at NAIA Terminal 3

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) intends to apply the sum of One Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱1,200,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to undertake Rebuild/Outfitting of Fire Detection and Alarm System Installed at NAIA Terminal 3 (Project) and invites bids for the Project.

The Bidding may be open only to the above-stated citizenship of the locality of operation as per the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs). Bidders must have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project, the value of which, adjusted to current prices using the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) consumer price index, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. Bidders must submit a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License and registration for the Electrical Works category, or Electronics Security Systems and Equipment (ESSE) category, with a minimum Small A Contractor's License.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the said dates and at the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of ₱5,000.00 (Philippine Peso). Payment is to be made by cash or cashier's check.

Issuance of Bidding Documents	19 October to 09 November 2017
Pre-Bid Conference	31 October 2017 @ 2:00 PM
Technical Clarification	03 November 2017 @ 2:00 PM
Opening of Bids	10 November 2017 @ 2:00 PM

The Bid must be delivered to the address below on or before the date/time specified above. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Bidders may submit their bids by mail or by personal delivery. Bidders should ensure that all the bidding documents are duly signed and sealed.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Bid Secretariat
Felix S. Gilbero
3rd flr., MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road Pasay City
Trunk line (02) 877-1700 loc. 4408
Fax (02) 832-1236

(sgd)
FELIX S. GILBERO
Bid Secretariat

(PNA) (For publication: 10/20)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. III-A
3F Andersen Bldg. 3, Brgy. Potrero, Calumpit City
Telefax Nos.: (044) 815-0302

October 16, 2017

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporation/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s:

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National / Citizenship	Position
1	**HKY FAB'S CORPORATION** #233 Roxas, Quezon	Mr. Hiroyuki Shimamoto/ Japanese	Assistant Camping Director
2	**AFAUCO (1) INDL. STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES PHILS., CORP.** Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Chandrasegaran Anpanthaki/ Malaysian	President/ General Manager
3	**HELSE PHILIPPINES INC.** PCE, Brgy. Cupang, Hermosa, Bataan	Mr. Jinhiro Tawaraya/ Japanese	Acting General Manager
4	**SUNG KWO PLASTICS COMPANY, INC.** MPP Brgy. Sto. Angelo, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Dongyan Yang/ Chinese	Warehouse Supervisor
5	**JEC ESSETEL PHILIPPINES, INC.** CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Yun Hwan Japanese	Administration Manager
6	**GTM TEXTILE YARNS CORPORATION** #17 Halcon Compound Dela Paz Pulilan, San Jose, Tarlac Road	Mr. Chun Chiet Korean	Warehouse Manager
7	**TECHLINE CENTER PHILIPPINES** LPP, Brgy. Dalero, Calamba City	Mr. Makoto Masashige/ Japanese	Sr. Product Engineer

If you know any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with this Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ JR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PNA) (For publication: 10/20)

'The Sweet Escape' at Market! Market!

CELEBRATING ITS 4TH ANNIVERSARY, DiabetEASE magazine will host "The Sweet Escape," slated on Oct. 29 and 30 at the activity center of Market! Market!

The Sweet Escape is dedicated to not your ordinary diabetic event. For two days, this event will make its guests experience how far-fetching a healthy lifestyle can get. Guests will be treated with free massage, acupuncture, fitness activities, sampling of sugar-free goodies, and blood sugar testing. The program will also feature cooking lessons of savory healthy dishes, led by some of the country's top endocrinologists, and other surprises.

DiabetEASE magazine advocates diabetes prevention and it aims to encourage diabetic patients to live their lives well. Across the globe, diabetes mellitus is fast becoming a major concern. According to the Philippine Association of Diabetes Educators, in the Philippines alone, around 8,000 are being diagnosed with diabetes every day, adding to the estimated 5 million Filipinos who are already afflicted by this condition. The worst part is, the figure don't stop there. According to estimates by the World Health Organization, cases of diabetes in the country will go up, and will make us one of the top 10 countries with the highest number of diabetic patients by 2030.

"Diabetes mellitus is a devastating disease. It is one of the leading causes of blindness, kidney failure, and leg amputations around the world," said Dr. (Fe) Normidelle Adriano, chief of DiabetCARE, magazine. "Unfortunately, many Filipinos are ignorant of this disease. There may be a plethora of information regarding diabetes, but many are misleading, and could be potentially harmful to many patients," she added.

Everybody is invited to experience The Sweet Escape from 9:00 a.m. to 7 p.m., while progress starts at 5 p.m. For more event details, register via e-mail and send your name to diabeteseasemag@gmail.com. For inquiries, call 0915-0715-161 to 116.

DiabetEASE magazine is published by RAKE Inc.

COSTA CROCIERE CHAIR PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO PRESIDENT ARROYO

Costa Crociere S.p.A. Chair and CEO Pier Luigi Foschi paid a courtesy call to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang recently. Costa Crociere is the number 1 cruise company in Italy and Europe with more than 50 years of maritime passenger service experience. Costa's inaugural port-of-call to the Philippines is Manila with three (3) Costa cruise ships making regular calls to Manila within November 2010. Its first Costa Cruises ship Costa Allegra and the Costa Romantica, bringing over 23,000 foreign tourists. Together with its other brands, Alefa Cruises and Neos cruise line, Costa Crociere operates a fleet of 15 ships, which cruise on itineraries based through its offices and partners in the Philippines. Magsaysay Maritime Corp. Foschi was accompanied by Costa Magsaysay Inc. president and CEO Jose R. Magsaysay, Marina Nora, president of Magsaysay Maritime Corp. Tina Costa, president of Travel People and Nina Sonora, vice president for cruises MS of Magsaysay.

ASIANLIFE, CIS INK CONTRACT

Asian Life and General Insurance Corp. (Asianlife) recently signed a contract with Commercial Insurance Services Inc. (CIS), a subsidiary of Bancnet, to provide insurance benefits for Bancnet/Interbank Debit Card (ICDC) employees and their dependents. CIS also serves Pool Cards Inc. and Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Inc. (Philippines), and the Insurance Consultants Asia Inc. is part of the KPK Group of companies. The landing compliments of Asianlife's Vice President and Group Head Lee Lim Lee and Bancnet Vice President Ma. Victoria Lopez. CIS is a private peculiar institution offering insurance to grade 12 college graduates only or to salaried employees. Bancnet explores (from left) Asianlife's Lee Lim Lee, Bancnet's Lopez, Asianlife president and CEO Rodolfo M. Ganitano, Asianlife president and CEO Rodolfo M. Ganitano, Philippine Insurance Manager Pinky Cuna, CIS superintendent Sandra Fischer, Asianlife Senior Vice President Lucille Mendiola, and Philippine Bancnet Executive Vice President Jackie P. Hernandez.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BEHIND PHILCONSTRUCT 2009

Augusto "Tito" Sarabia, 1st vice president of the Philippine Constructors Association (PCA) and overall chair of Philconstruct 2009 recently announced the event's landing hotel at the SMX Convention Center for the corresponding Philconstruct 2009 - 14th AFI Building Materials and Construction Equipment Exhibition and Technology Forum. This industry event is on Nov. 12 - 15, also at the SMX Convention Center and is being organized by the Philippine Constructors Association Inc. (PCA), Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers (PSME), the Philippine Society of Plumbing, Air-Conditioning and Refrigerating Engineers (PSPARE), the Association of Contractors and Equipment Lessors Inc. (ACEL, and the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID). Interesting? Rebookers? Exhibitors? Other materials, contact the pros! For more info, contact Mr. Mark Lee MP Events Int'l Inc. attn/ cel. no. 756-0489/ 0917-524 Inc. (632) 756-0489/ 844-2982; e-mail: mark@mpeventsinc.com; website: www.philconstruct.com; website: www.globalbridges.com.

TEAM ENERGY AWARDS INNOVATIVE EMPLOYEES

Federico R. Puno, president/CEO of Taal Energy Corp. (Team) with Team's five outstanding employees in the new-age hi-tech Employee Creation Idea Program (Ecip). An informal company program centered on rewarding the best employee ideas on initiatives leading to the improvement of company operations and ensuring productivity. Winners of the program received a celebration and a plaque of recognition. Mine division logistics and field biology team members (along with Team's president) (from left): 2nd from right Ma. Mahusay, Ayr Ivy Sonora and Abel Nacional; driver Takao Gnabi; 3rd from right Pagbilao maintenance manager Ben Lee; and VP for operations and fuel/ station manager Ruben Linares. Taal Energy, a partnership between Trans Electric Power Company and Mitsubishi Corporation, is an owner of the largest private producers of electricity in the country. It operates the 733-MW Pagbilao Power Station in Quezon, and has 1,215-MW Taal Power Station in Pangasinan. It also owns a 20 percent stake in the 1,200 MW natural gas-fired plant in Iliyan, Batangas.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region II – Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE PROVISION OF GRAINS TRUCKING SERVICES FOR CY 2018

The National Food Authority (Region II), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested NFA-registered private hauling/trucking service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains trucking services for the period January to December Year 2018 (1 Project Reference No.: NIB-2018-09).

Lot No.	Particulars	Minimum Trucking Capacity	Hauling Rate/bag (Php)	ABC (Php)	Bidding Fee (Php)
1	NFA Pulupandan Positive: 0.00 km-5.0 km/bag Exceeding 5.0 km- 10.0 km Exceeding 10 km- 15.0 km Exceeding 15.0 km to 20.0 km Exceeding 20.0 km to 25.0 km Exceeding 25.0 km to 30.0 km Exceeding 30.0 km to 35.0 km Exceeding 35.0 km to 40.0 km Exceeding 40.0 km to 45.0 km Exceeding 45.0 km to 50.0 km Exceeding 50.0 km to 55.0 km Exceeding 55.0 km to 60.0 km Exceeding 60.0 km to 65.0 km Exceeding 65.0 km to 70.0 km Exceeding 70.0 km to 75.0 km Exceeding 75.0 km to 80.0 km Exceeding 80.0 km to 85.0 km Exceeding 85.0 km to 90.0 km Exceeding 90.0 km to 95.0 km Exceeding 95.0 km to 100.0 km Exceeding 100 km	10	4.00/bag 5.00/bag 6.00/bag 7.00/bag 8.00/bag 9.00/bag 10.00/bag 11.00/bag 12.00/bag 13.00/bag 14.00/bag 15.00/bag 16.00/bag 17.00/bag 18.00/bag 19.00/bag 20.00/bag 21.00/bag 22.00/bag 23.00/bag 24.00/bag 25.00/bag	13,440,000.00	25,000.00
2	NFA Roxas Zaragoza Positive: 0.00 km-5.0 km/bag Exceeding 5.0 km- 10.0 km Exceeding 10 km- 15.0 km Exceeding 15.0 km to 20.0 km Exceeding 20.0 km to 25.0 km Exceeding 25.0 km to 30.0 km Exceeding 30.0 km to 35.0 km Exceeding 35.0 km to 40.0 km Exceeding 40.0 km to 45.0 km Exceeding 45.0 km to 50.0 km Exceeding 50.0 km to 55.0 km Exceeding 55.0 km to 60.0 km Exceeding 60.0 km to 65.0 km Exceeding 65.0 km to 70.0 km Exceeding 70.0 km to 75.0 km Exceeding 75.0 km to 80.0 km Exceeding 80.0 km to 85.0 km Exceeding 85.0 km to 90.0 km Exceeding 90.0 km to 95.0 km Exceeding 95.0 km to 100.0 km Exceeding 100 km	10	4.00/bag 5.00/bag 6.00/bag 7.00/bag 8.00/bag 9.00/bag 10.00/bag 11.00/bag 12.00/bag 13.00/bag 14.00/bag 15.00/bag 16.00/bag 17.00/bag 18.00/bag 19.00/bag 20.00/bag 21.00/bag 22.00/bag 23.00/bag 24.00/bag 25.00/bag	2,760,000.00	5,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the prospective project for bidding and have the personnel, and equipment as required in various technical guidelines for the particular offer project. The bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the NFA BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders in the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the NFA Bidding Documents in the amount of ₱5,000.00 (Philippine Peso).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 20 - Nov. 3, 2017 (8:00 am to 5:00 pm)
2. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 6, 2017 10:00 am
3. Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Documents	Nov. 13, 2017 10:00 am

Pre-bid Conference and the opening of Bids shall be conducted at 2/F NFA Iloilo Regional Office Conference Room, Golden Valley, Jaro, Iloilo City.

The National Food Authority, Region II reserves its responsibility whatsoever to consummate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The **National Food Authority, Region II** reserves the rights to accept or reject any Bid, annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(sgd)
FELIX A. ZARRAGA, MNSA
BAC Chairperson

Bid Secretariat
Trunk Line: (033) 329-0700 loc. 4408
Fax No.: (033) 329-0144

(PNA) (For publication: 10/20)

HFI TAKES FIRST PLACE IN MECHATRONICS COMPETITION

Students of the HFI Technological Institute (HFI-T), formerly Mariano Kasilawan Institute, recently garnered first place at a mini-lathe race competition, emerging the fastest of representing BCP at the National Mechatronics Skills Competition that will be held this October 26 to 28 at Subic Bay. The first place win was a feat competitors from Kasilawan school in BCP, as a competition held recently at the Tesda Women's Institute in Taguig City. The team was Sabio Hafi – Innovation Technology student Leo Bakcid of Barangay Bucal, Silang, Cavite; Jhon Mark Ramos, Electronics Technology student Eugene Henry B. Cabrera. Photo shows HFI-T representatives Tomayo (left) and Mendez (sitting, right) during the competition.

ProductFILES

What is it and why apple vodka!

WITH VODKA IS THE HIGHEST selection for The Buff's line of new generation spirits. Better than a night out with friends or hosting cocktails at home, Smooth top-quality vodka infused with the tastiest flavor of only the finest Europes. The Buff Apple Vodka's clean fruity taste along with an honest aroma, and enough bite to make it interesting, makes it an irresistible choice for all sorts of parties and gatherings... anytime, anywhere! Very affordable with a suggested retail price of P65. The Buff Apple Vodka is a perfect addition to your get-togethers with friends. So whether you are partying out with your friends, watching up with each other, celebrating little victories in life or simply keeping tab together. Make sure you have a bottle of The Buff Apple Vodka around. Grab a bottle now in any supermarket, convenience store, petrol shop, wine shop, bar, club, or neighborhood sari-sari store near you.

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for sale:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA (sqm)	LOT AREA (sqm)	SELLING PRICE (in PhP)	REMARKS
1	Block 24 Lot 4 New Capitol Estate I Commonwealth Ext., Quezon City	Townhouse	96.84	60.00	995,270.00	vacant
2	Unit 5104, Screenhouse Condominium Condominium, Edsa cor. Quezon Ave., Quezon City	Condominium	51.30	—	2,437,750.00	vacant
3	Unit 5305, Screenhouse Condominium Condominium, Edsa cor. Quezon Ave., Quezon City	Condominium	51.30	—	2,437,750.00	vacant
4	Block 30 Lot 3 Montalvo Homes Subdivision, Brgy. Poblacion, Lipa City, Batangas	House and Lot	36.00	72.00	250,000.00	vacant

BIDDING FORMS CAN BE SECURED FROM THE ASSET MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITION GROUP (AMDG) LOCATED AT THE 4/F HOLCIM - HGC BUILDING, 120 SEN. GIL J. PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY FROM NOVEMBER 3 TO 15, 2009 DURING OFFICE HOURS. THE OPENING OF BIDS WILL BE ON NOVEMBER 16, 2009, 9AM AT THE AMDG CONFERENCE ROOM.

FOR ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES, YOU MAY CALL MRS. NANCY MANALO OR MR. RICKY DAVID AT 886-0405 LOC 240 OR VISIT OUR OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
President
Asset Management and Disposition Group

BUSINESS *Friday*

E-mail business@inquirer.com.ph
PHOTOS: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Reyes

Fashion fights for a cause

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PROVIDING CHILDREN with proper health and nutrition and basic education. Fighting for the rights of child. Preventing HIV/AIDS among children and responding quickly to emergencies.

All these principles and objectives comprise a good deal of chores.

Given this mode reading the United Nations Children's Fund, "which works for all children, in all countries, in all situations, all of the time," has to constantly come up with effective ways to raise much-needed funds.

These include reaching out to individual and corporate donors, selling gift items—such as its popular line of Unicef mini and all-occasion cards—and, more recently, forging a partnership with graphic design firm Team Manila.

Under the partnership, Team Manila will produce shoes, bags and lanyards featuring key Unicef messages, starting with children's rights.

For every shirt sold, P50 will go to Unicef. For the lanyards, Unicef will get P20 and for the tote bags, P20.

Unicef senior development officer Kevin del Castillo adds the business deal the partnership is unique because it marks the first time that Unicef has partnered with a local company that would produce goods with a distinctively local angle.

Previous collaborations with companies such as adidas, in contrast, were limited to Engineering which means those like adidas were allowed to put the Unicef logo on their products, such as baseball caps and footballs.

Del Castillo says he is excited about the prospect of the partnership with Team Manila as the shirts have also appealed to the youth front other countries, thus giving him hope that the Team Manila products would soon find their way into shops across the region.

"In that way, we get other countries to get to know the Filipino talent and help raise the campaign to a new level," says Del Castillo.

In designing the products, Team Manila general manager Tito Rocati says the team decided to keep things simple and make the message the main design.

"We wanted to communicate the basic rights of children in as cute way possible, as well as depict them through the simplest line possible," Rocati says.

Beyond hopes that aside from the chance to help Unicef pursue its many projects in the Philippines, Filipinos would be enticed to buy the Team Manila-Unicef products by the opportunity to help increase awareness of children's rights.

"Perhaps an intangible aspect to these products would be that you would be carrying that message everywhere you go, thereby creating more and more awareness of Children's Rights—the right to play, the right to shelter, the right to learn and learn, the right to be healthy and the right to be safe," Rocati says.

To add more excitement, Team Manila has chosen Nicole and Camille Tantoco to be the face of the Children's Rights Collection.

"We were very impressed with Nicole and Camille in that we feel they are representatives of the new generation—artistic with their education and well-educated, kind-hearted, very much into the arts and very socially aware and active. In other words, very well-rounded individuals," Rocati says. That would capture the saying, 'Youth is wasted on the young,' after meeting them two."

Unicef representative Yesenia J. Tolin, meanwhile, says Unicef partnered with Team Manila because there was synergy between Unicef products and Team Manila's drive over the youth.

"Team Manila is an innovative, young and passionate graphic and fashion design company who's on the cutting edge of design and has a pulse on Filipino youth culture," says Tolin. "The collaboration was also in perfect timing since this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child."

The CRC is an international treaty, signed by all governments of the world, which recognizes that human rights are for all children.

It has defined Unicef's mandate to create a world fit for children.

"These products [with Team Manila] will help spread the word that a child has rights and that we should all do our part in respecting and protecting these rights. It also generates the fact that Unicef is here in the Philippines," Tolin says. "For over 60 years we have been here, all for the benefit of Filipino women and children."

UNICEF ball by adidas

Unicef, Team Manila put new twist to rights awareness campaign

NICOLE and Camille Tantoco fight for the rights of children by teaming up with Team Manila.

UNICEF retails specially designed toys to help fund its programs

GOINGS-ON

Lectures on real estate investing scheduled

LECTURES ON THE INVESTMENT HOW TO'S OF investing in Real Estate are continuously conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate for prospective investors, developers, landowners and realty professionals for them to gain additional insights and confidence to finally implement proposed real estate investments.

The seminars would be conducted every Monday and Wednesday starting Nov. 16 to Dec. 9, 1:00 to 6 p.m. at the Mezzanine Function Room, Mac's Restaurant Columbia, 82 Park Theatre Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City.

For other details, its base institute may be contacted 7060018 or 8488191, or 09184208174/09215858211 or by e-mail at info@uirealestate.ph or urbanist.ph@gmail.com, or visit their urban institute blogspot.com.

Sutherland cited for rapid growth, local employment

SUTHERLAND GLOBAL SERVICES, A LEADING New York-based outsourced business process outsourcing (BPO) provider operating in the country since 2005, was recently cited for its accredited organization for generation of valuable local employment opportunities by US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie A. Kenney during the record rollout to its delivery center here at Luna Complex, Juanito Extension, Davao City.

Sutherland has grown to Davao operations in the last 18 months to become its third largest delivery center in the country.

Mang Inasal sets new target

PHILIPPINE BARBECUE FAST-FOOD CHAIN Mang Inasal is 18 stores away from achieving its target of 200 stores by December 2009.

And by 2012, Mang Inasal hopes to achieve market dominance with 500 stores nationwide.

Mang Inasal boasts its flavorful tasty to 18 successful stores in Iloilo. In September 2008, it leased the Ribbon Manila palate with its first restaurant at the Mall of Asia.

Since then, it has established 100 stores, 20 of which are company-owned, while 180 are franchised.

This growth can be attributed to an uncompromising stance for product quality and customer satisfaction, along with the expertise and unrelenting quest for excellence of its staff.

Mang Inasal has also embarked on an aggressive marketing and PR campaign, which includes the partnership with the celebrity endorser, popular TV personality and singer Mark Bautista.

All these efforts to contribute greatly to solidifying Mang Inasal's position as an emerging leader in the food industry.

RP coffee industry gets a needed jolt

By Rory Aniceto
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE (27°)—REPORTS are now underway to rehabilitate the country's ailing coffee industry, which generated millions of dollars for the country in the 1970s to 1980s.

Hector Meril, cochair of the seven-year-old Philippine Coffee Board (PCB), said farms recently that under the coffee rehabilitation program, the board would help Davao increase coffee production.

The Department of Agriculture and the PCB reached an agreement to implement the coffee rehabilitation program in 2008.

Under the agreement, the DA would provide P50 million, while the PCB would identify the areas to be rehabilitated. It will also formulate and implement the program.

The PCB decided to focus on 21 provinces in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and southern Mindanao.

The PCB would work with a partner, either a local government unit or a nongovernment organization, to help survey the target areas and identify the farmer beneficiaries.

The PCB would set aside P50,000 as mobilization fund for its partners in Region Oriental. PCB's partner is the provincial government.

Meril said under the program, PCB would give 40-25 bags of fertilizer for every hectare of land planted with 1,000 coffee trees.

Aside from the fertilizer assistance, Meril said the PCB would also provide the farmers with seeded farm implements.

Meril recalled that in the late 1980s, the Philippines exported coffee to the United States at a volume of over 80,000 metric tons a year, bringing in about $130 million to the country annually.

At that time, he said, the Philippines was producing 75,000 to 72,000 MT of coffee and the local consumption then was only 10,000 MT a year.

At present, Meril disclosed that the Philippine consumption of coffee is 90,000 MT to 95,000 MT a year, but the country produces only around 30,000 MT annually.

The shortage has prompted the country to import coffee from Vietnam, which was only producing 13,000 to 15,000 MT of coffee during the heyday of the Philippine coffee industry, Meril said.

Vietnam increased its coffee production to 180,000 to 400,000 MT in 1997 and to one million MT in 2002.

"Now we are now buying about P2 billion worth of coffee from Vietnam annually. In effect, we are also giving jobs to Vietnam farmers that could have been provided to Filipino farmers," Meril said.

He added that about 90,000 Filipino families were directly dependent on coffee industry.

Meril said the decline in the country's coffee production started when coffee prices plummeted from $3,500 per MT in the late 1980s to an all-time low of $250 to $400 per MT from 1997 to 2003.

The situation was aggravated by the massive land conversion in the Philippines and the shift of many farmers to other crops.

LOPEZ-CONTROLLED Fora Gen Corp. received two domestic of Hero for its 2008 annual report. Seeing it be Philippine Quill Awards of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). Receiving the awards on behalf of Fora Gen are (from left) Joel Salinero, senior manager for corporate communications; Joni Santiago, corporate communications specialist; and Edwin dela Paz, assistant vice president and head of corporate communications. Joining them is Atty. Trellies Guingona III (2nd Director, Bakintech), guest speaker during the ceremony.

Experts see RP becoming self-sufficient in coffee by 2015-2017

BUSINESS

American firms scout prospects in Mindanao

Trade delegation checks out opportunities in agriculture

By Judy Quiros and Madanna Rose
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—TWELVE AMERICAN companies have sent representatives to this city to explore possible investment opportunities in Mindanao.

The US trade mission, led by US Agricultural deputy administrator Patricia Sheikh, arrived here Wednesday and joined an agri-business event organized by the government.

Mavric Aghan, president of the Philippine Agriculture Development and Commercial Corp. of the Department of Agriculture, said that there were bright prospects in the cocoa, mango and banana industries in Mindanao.

"The DA will work closely with the USDA to gain positive results from the trade mission," he said.

Potential investments, which DA offered to the US business delegation during the plenary session, were in the manufacture, biofuel, food production, rubber plantation, palm oil, jatropha and seaweed sectors.

Sheikh said the trade mission was the first of its kind in Mindanao.

She expressed confidence that the participating US companies would be encouraged to invest in Mindanao "given its rare potential investment opportunities."

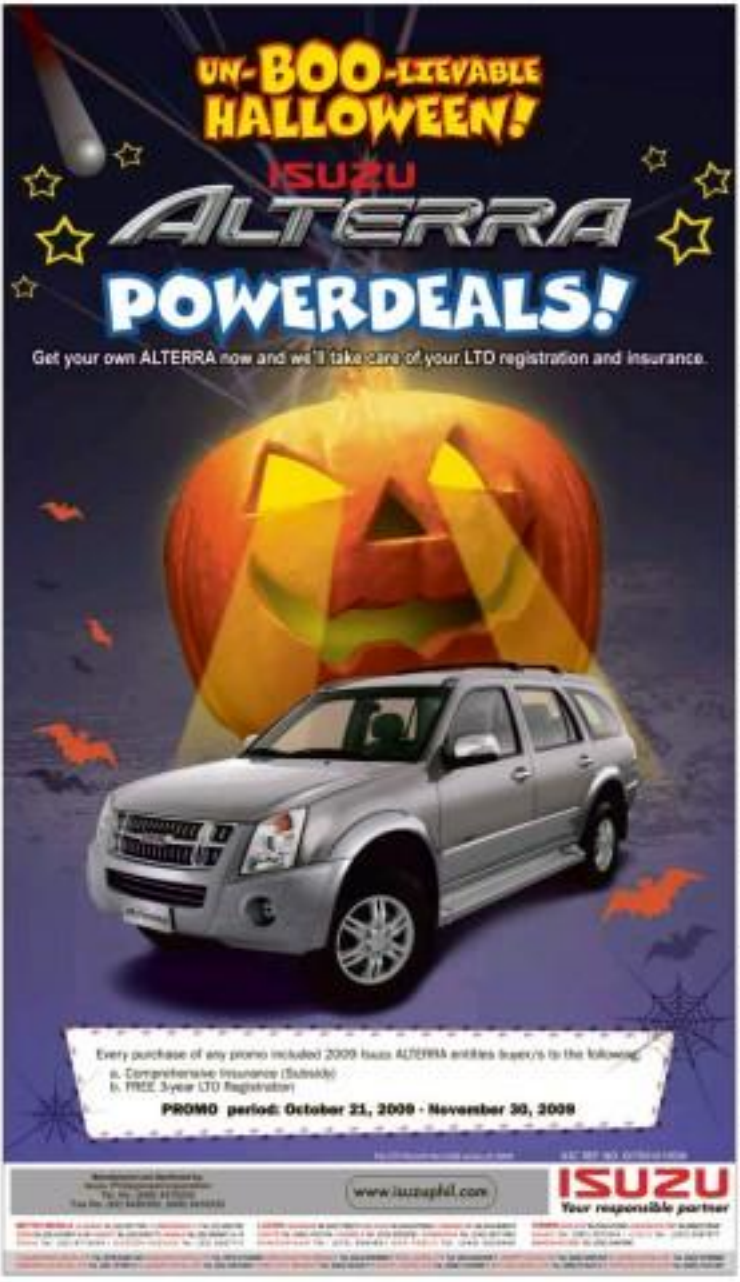
Donell Nicholson, president of Orchid Ocean Inc.—one of the US companies that participated in the trade mission, expressed concern, however, over access to financing.

But Aghan assured the companies that financing would not be a problem as both the DA and the USDA "are there to help the private companies or access funds from financial institutions."

Other US companies that participated in the mission are: American Trading Investors, LLC based in California; Sea Valley Resources, an export company; Wima Corporation; Garuda International; Intervision Foods; Stovak Industries Ltd.; Hagen Corp., Missouri Industries Inc., The Alan Group, a biofuel producer; Agri-Inn CEO Technology; and US Fed Group.

Alex B. James, vice president of Overseas Market Development of the US Fed Group, said the US trade and investment mission to the Philippines expressed the confidence of President Barack Obama to boost the economic ties between the two countries.

"It is a good idea because the Philippines is a strategic place. It echoes the commitment of President Obama to establish links between Philippine investors and US investors," Mr. James said.



Medusa ups output target

By Nina T. Chicombra

MEDUSA MINING LTD., AN AUSTRALIAN miner focused on the Philippines, has increased its production target for full year 2009-2010.

Medusa has existing investments in central eastern Mindanao, the most developed site being the Co-O mine in Surigao del Sur.

The miner said in its quarterly report for the period ending September that it now aims to produce 86,000 ounces of gold, up from the previous target of 82,000 ounces.

The company's optimism is grounded on improved production levels in the July-September period from the previous quarter.

The miner said that gold production during the July-September period reached 18,034 ounces from 14,009 ounces in the April-June quarter.

The July-September output had an average grade of 14.7 grams per ton gold and average cash cost of $593 an ounce.

Medusa sold all of the gold produced as of September and received proceeds of $17.6 million at an average sale price of $975 an ounce.

The Co-O gold mine's phase II expansion is on schedule to gradually ramp-up to 100,000 ounces a year from the present 60,000 ounces.

The company said it was on target to achieve this expansion by the first quarter of 2010.

Mill expansion, on the other hand, is on schedule for completion in December.

For the fiscal year July 2008 to June 2009, Medusa produced 47,668 ounces of gold at a cash cost of $213 for the year.

All of that were sold at an average gold price of $860 over 12 months.

RP banks lead in cutting rates

By Michelle V. Ferrer

BANKS IN THE PHILIPPINES HAVE reduced lending rates much faster than those in most Asian countries, thus contributing more to efforts to pump-prime the economy amid the lingering global economic crisis.

According to the International Monetary Fund, most Asian central banks had reduced their policy rates to record lows to counter the ill effects of the global turmoil by encouraging borrowing.

However, bank lending rates had not been reduced at the same pace, said the IMF.

In the report entitled "Asia and Pacific: Building a Sustained Recovery," the IMF said the average decline in policy rates by the central bank this year averaged at 2.5 percentage points.

On the other hand, said the IMF the average drop in bank lending rates so far stood at only 80 basis points.

In the case of the Philippines, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas implemented a series of rate cuts from December 2008 to July 2009, bringing down its policy rates by 2 percentage points, slower than the average in the region.

Overnight borrowing and lending rates of the BSP now stand at 4 and 6 percent, respectively.

But while the total rate cut by the BSP is smaller than the average reduction of central bank rates in Asia, the country's banking sector brought down average lending rates by a higher margin.

The IMF said that in the Philippines, the pass through of the central bank rate cut stood at 70 percent, exceeding the 60 percent average in Asia.

A 70 percent pass through means that bank lending rates in the Philippine had already fallen by 1.4 percentage points following the 2-percentage point cut in BSP rates.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

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SM MALL OF ASIA • SM MEGAMALL • SM NORTH EDSA

Check out the MAC counters because these things are going, going, gone!

WHAT'S HOT!

Skincare for clueless guys

SAVE FOR A RARE FEW, guys are mostly clueless when it comes to their grooming and skincare.

The thought of using shower-fresh appearances is almost as vague to them as the difference between Coast and Paint. They see it as a feminine thing, and the mere mention of it conjures up images of wimpy, girly men.

In their head, it's simply not something a real man, like, say, Chuck Norris, would do. So how do you convince a man to start

Isabel Roces, Mockingjay Pez

Start by using the products suggested by the women in your lives

Jeff Rodriguez

SKINCARE >>

Enjoy the fresh catch of the day at 50% off with Instant Citi Rewards

Now, Citi cardholders can Pay with Points at Fish & Co.

By Arnelle S. Tayao

With more and more innovative restaurants sprouting all over Metro Manila, restaurateurs are facing greater challenges in satisfying diners' eating pleasures.

Menus now need to be more dynamic – with another dishes that keep diners coming back plus some new items to tease their palate from time to time. All these plus providing great value for money can be quite a tall order.

Thankfully, the country's leading credit card is making this happen by teaming up with major restaurants around the metro. With Instant Citi Rewards, Citi credit cardholders can wine and dine to their hearts' delight – and pay for as much as half of their bill using their Citi Rewards Points.

"The idea is to let Citibank clients use their Rewards Points now – without having to wait for what comes out in the catalogue," says Alina Gruenberg, Vice President for Citi Credit Cards.

Instant Citi Rewards allows cardholders to Pay with Points, giving them a third choice on top of cash and cash. While Pay with Points customers can pay for up to 50 percent of their bill, depending on how many Rewards Points they have. The rest can be charged to their Citi credit card – earning them more points in the process.

The offer is made more delectable at Fish & Co. the premier home seafood restaurant from Singapore. From now until April 30 of next year, your Citi card is your passport to enjoying the fresh catch of the day, and paying with Rewards Points for as much as half your dining bill.

"Their Rewards points become a new currency," says Gruenberg. And with the new "currency," Citi cardholders get to enjoy Fish & Co.'s bestsellers. Favorites are The Best Fish and Chips in Town, Fried Calamari and the Clam Chowder. "And of course, there's our Soft Shell Crab Salad," says Liziel Martinez, Fish & Co Director for Operations. "We're the only ones who have it."

Martinez also recommends their signature dish: New Zealand Mussels in Lemon Garlic Butter Sauce. "The mussels are not the ones you typically find here in the country," Martinez says. For those looking for a different kind of thirst-quencher, Fish and Co offers Jungle Freeze, a refreshing mix of cantaloupe and pineapple all in a whopping one-liter mug.

And of course, the Fish & Co experience wouldn't be complete without their trademark homemade sauces – tartar, garlic and chili – which can all be mixed with any of the restaurant's dishes. These and more can be availed with Instant Citi Rewards – Pay with Points promo in two of Fish & Co's branches: one in Trinoma, Quezon City and another in Alabang Town Center.

Citi Rewards Points accepted at Fish & Co.

San Ina Hot Fudge Chocolate Cake with at least P1,000 total bill paid with Citi card.

"This coming holiday season, we expect many of our cardholders to have more reasons to dine out with family and friends. Instead of redeeming dining gift certificates from our latest catalogue, they can jump ahead and redeem in store," says Gruenberg. "Now we're taking the Citi Rewards experience to a new level."

One more tempting reason to dine at Fish & Co. for Citi cardholders: their Hot Fudge Chocolate Cake for dessert! A minimum P1,000 total bill paid with a Citi card will give you this sweet treat for free.

Fish & Co is one of the first restaurants to sign up for Instant Citi Rewards, together with other restaurants under the Bistro Group, such as Italianni's and TGI Friday's.

Pay with Points isn't confined to just dining, however. Already Citibank has tied up with Western Appliance, Ambiance Dine Fine Furniture and The Travel Club. In the coming weeks, watch this space for more places where Citi cardholders will be able to redeem their points anytime they please.

For more information, log on to www.citibank.com.ph or call 24-hour CitiPhone at 995 0888.

"Award-winning" Seafood Platter

The Best Fish and Chips in Town

Soft Shell Crab Salad

Fried Calamari

Jewel-toned nail polish

HAPPY HALLOWEEN SHOT families and friends I know are going to some extravagant costume party and having a blast trick or treating this weekend. Stars are some romantic places you can trust local Silverson digital outlook looking like you are trying to scare your neighbors.

Kenny Sodas

Bejeweled nails

Only Iconic Goldeneye is not sexy to go bling-bling. Those jewel-toned nail polish come with a fancy price tag. Remember Midnight Star—purple glaze with very fine shimmer that is always a hit on holidays. Star of Bombay—deep ghosty inky blue that is so dark. Makes hands look pale as it cancels out yellow tones, and the red glossy cousin which is Mandalay Ruby.

If you love dark-colored nails, use the following: 1. plum blanks—Orly Vinyl and Berber's Black Lingerie 2. Chanel's Hemp—Mackenzie red or the color of dried blood 3. Revlon's Raven Red.

Sagging skin on the face and neck might seem as useful as part of a Halloween costume, but it is definitely not cool in real life.

The fact is, Asian women's skin starts sagging when they (Asian women) are in their mid-30s. This becomes more pronounced as the age of 40 approaches. If your skin is visibly sagged and you need a quick boost, see Perfume, also known as Fitris Phe. This was my absolute dark secret weapon on my wedding day. Despite the harassment of preparation, my skin looked plump, contoured, poreless, without double chin and eye bags on the big day I was at Fitris clinic every three weeks for three sessions for Fit'n Plus before that big day. My face and neck were contoured and lifted.

Painless treatment

As I changed residence, I found Aesthetic Science in Jupiter that now carries Dr. Hofbiene machines. The treatment is painless and quick, but the results get better up to three months after the treatment. Initially, one is advised to go back every three to four weeks for the first six sessions and every two to three months for maintenance. The first session costs $500, which is ridiculous, but the results that are noticeable the next day, as people will ask if you lost weight because your face is smaller. What I used to do Botoxes pigmentation like freckles or blemishes like acne.

For maintenance, I'm switched with Lancome's Renergie R.A.R.E. line targeted for women who are 35 and above and who have sagging skin on the face and neck. The Lancome Renergie range is expensive, but is definitely delivers. Most anti-aging products just deal with wrinkles and dryness but do nothing for firmness, which is the problem of Asian women next to pigmentation. I have been using the toning lotion, repositioning serum, neck cream, night cream and eye cream together with my sleep therapy and SPF 30 sunblock as day cream after the serum.

L'OREAL Revitalift

My face is no longer puffy in the morning, plus pillow marks disappear in minutes upon waking. The best of all bus of my nose running down until just the sides of my mouth have also not some fresh sinus completing my New Year plus before treatment. It does not feel oily which is a plus. The eye cream has reduced my puffiness by about 40 percent. During 2010, the new line of a woman's water retention problem, the eye cream and night cream have kept things at a minimum around the face and neck. Also try: Shiseido Concept cream for men and L'Oreal Revitalift Face Contour and Neck.

Call the Belo hotline at +632 919-2564 /+632 919-BELO or Aesthetic Science +632- 899-3640.

E-mail the author at kbsodas@yahoo.com.

ORLY Gauze Collection

ANGELO Caballero

Skincare for clueless guys

From page C1

taking command of his skin! Give him a no nonsense game plan:

1) Bath the his soap. Many men mistakenly think that using an ordinary bar of soap in the shower is sufficient facial cleansing. Truth is, soap can actually do more harm than good by stripping your face of its natural oils. Instead, use a facial cleanser to dissolve daily dirt and grime.

Then we must: Apply your cleanser in the shower while the skin is already wet. Massage a small amount over the face and neck, rinse carefully and pat dry. After you get out of the shower, apply lotion immediately to lock in moisture.

2) Scrub it off. Exfoliate two to three times a week to get rid of dead skin cells. Exfoliating encourages new cell growth, stimulates firm lines and wrinkles and makes skin appear smoother.

3) Moisturize. Although men's skin is often thicker and coarser than women's, moisturizing is still an important part of a guy's basic routine. The right one will counteract the redness and pollution skin don't discriminate, after all—they affect women and men of all skin types, causing dryness and damage.

Here are three easy and effective ways you can moisturize: One. Like there, the best way to start is to actually use the product's given recipe by the women in your lives.

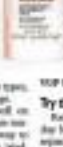
Those products can serve as a buyer's guide. For clueless men who don't know where to start:

"I use the Lab Series Basics Multi-Action Face Wash, Ocean Cream and Daily Moisture Defense Lotion...all from Boston's. My older sister was the first one to introduce it to me, and now it's become my foolproof skincare regimen. The Lab Series' antiperspirant deodorant stick is something I rely on everyday. It keeps me dry and protected when I play ball or when I'm out in my events."—Paolo Caballo, events coordinator, One Up events

"One beauty product I got from my girlfriend is the Cancer-Control Ultra Sunscreen. I like it because I use it often, when I ride the bike and run. Plus, it also helps to know that a big percentage of the proceeds goes to fighting cancer research."—Jared G. Rodriguez, import manager

"My girlfriend gave me Bulgari MSC 101 a classic perfume that provides a light, fresh and clean scent. It's subtle enough for the office or a night out without the annoying heaviness of musky perfumes."—Angelo Payne, YUP Group of Companies

ANGELO Payne



Try these

Put most exposed to the sun all day long, make sure your base a separate sunscreen for the face. Try Elwind, Fruits 'n' Orchard. It's specifically designed for Asian's skin, and shields against the sun and pollution. Available at all Robinsons and SM department stores.

For men who spend their days at the gym, Try Lab Series All Purpose Body Defogging Gel. It exfoliates the skin by tightening and toning the appearances of the enlarged pores. You can use it as a post-workout formula in conjunction with your daily fitness program. Available at Stamer's Makati and Rustan's, Shangri-La Mall.

Acne products that really work

A FRIEND RECENTLY CAME TO me for advice regarding her sudden acne breakout. And when it comes to dishing advice on skin flare-ups, I've always been generous and straightforward. See a dermatologist if you use the current products don't work; divide the salicylic acid in place of benzoyl peroxide if you're allergic to the latter (and vice versa); check your laundry detergent and regularly wash your bed sheets, pillows and bedspread. Fluctuations with your doctor, and so forth.

Marie Chua, Beauty in the Big Apple

But because of pricey dermatrixes in the US, in the last two years, I've experimented with nonprescription acne treatments at drugstores that are available at beauty counters.

Dermalogica

http://dermalogica.com

After experimenting a bout of adult acne in New York and getting exasperated after unsuccessfully treating the breakouts with my usual benzoyl peroxide spot treatment cream (I even tried opening an antibiotic capsule and dusted the powder on the pimples), I realized that the more I slathered my skin with products for acne-prone complexion, the more I aggravated it.

And this is where Dermalogica comes in. The brand has various skin kits available for different skin types. The best part is, each kit is affordable enough to give you some leeway for mixing and matching. Before you grab the Medibac Clearing Adult Acne Kit (you may not get stellar results, but it won't break the bank), I suggest going for the basic Normal-Dry (or Normal/Oily) combo which contains small, but substantial tubes of Special Cleansing Gel, Multi-Active Toner, Active Moist and Skin Perfect Primer.

Don't be afraid to use the seemingly mild lineup. It may feel strange applying moisturizer and not using any acne product during a major flare-up. But after a few days, you'll see the raw skin will begin to calm down. This following the tried-and-tested theory that the more you strip your face of natural oils, the more pore-clogging oil it produces.

If, on the other hand, using acne-prone products makes you sleep better at night, pick only one item to slather on your skin and resist the urge to dump everything in one go. Once you stick with a gentle skincare regimen, you'll be surprised at how your complexion "normalizes" over time.

Murad

http://murad.com

Another product line I count as lifesaver is Murad. The brainchild of Dr. Howard Murad a few years ago when he visited the Philippines for the launch of one of his earlier books in Boston's. When I filled most about him was that, well, he's a doctor in real life, and that he's a doctor who has devoted some time on research and development. So he's not your run-of-the-mill cosmetician guy who uses products from us. China and administrators that he sells begin claims and celebrity endorsements.

I don't practice that Murad also has all in one skincare sets, including the popular Murad Acne Complex. According to the brand's website, these acne products were balanced preservation and gentle antibacterial action without drying out skin. And people who've tried the regimen saw clear results in four weeks. If you're shopping online in the US, you can even get a 100% money-back guarantee on the Acne Complex.)

AcneFree

http://acnefree.com

For cystic, persistent pimples, the closest you could get to accessing dermatologist, perscription products is a line called AcneFree. Pros: Only your stubbornest zits threaten to quit if for you when they're home for the holidays). Strangely I'd discovered this in my friend's bathroom. Apparently for hard-core acne sufferers, which is the problem of Asian women next to pigmentation. I have been using the toning lotion, repositioning serum, neck cream, night cream and eye cream together with my sleep therapy and SPF 30 sunblock as day cream after the serum.

Cactus, I tried the products early this year, and to my surprise, my skin bloomed. It was one of the products worked from those spotty white-heads and blackheads that have become unwelcome on my forehead and nose. So I ended up getting myself a set that I don't use more than twice a month, or whenever I feel that familiar pimple-in-the-making sensation on my skin that brings about a round of blemishes.

SPOT S.O.S.!

If you're not ready to do a major skincare overhaul and just feel yucky with the occasional acne-dominated flare of the month, or during unusual bouts of stress, these are those best-bet-and-forget-them treatments that can be always counted on to help you through the worst of it.

AcneFree Gel Cleanser—Cleans away impurities while reducing redness with this patented gel that combines skin-calming bran and anti-inflammatories. Blemishes vanished levels sebum, rough, dry skin, while goji berry extract provides superior protection against re-flammed skin. (1,200 php)

Rosacea Treatment Gel—Salicylic acid and vitamin E improve hydration and calm flushed skin while goji berry extract accelerates the healing of dry, flaky skin. Zinc oxide and peppermint leaf oil create a subtle skin and help reduce redness and irritation, allowing natural skin tones to appear. (1,750 php)

Soothing Gel Cleanser—Cleans away impurities while reducing redness with this patented gel that combines skin-calming bran and anti-inflammatories. Blemishes vanished levels sebum, rough, dry skin, while goji berry extract provides superior protection against re-flammed skin. (1,200 php)

Rosacea Treatment Gel—Salicylic acid and vitamin E improve hydration and calm flushed skin while goji berry extract accelerates the healing of dry, flaky skin. Zinc oxide and peppermint leaf oil create a subtle skin and help reduce redness and irritation, allowing natural skin tones to appear. (1,750 php)

Correcting Moisturizer SPF 35—Neutralizes and protects inflamed, irritated skin by minimizing redness with cellular-renewing mint while shielding against sun irritation. Vitamin E reduces surface redness while goji berry extract reduces inflamed skin and free radical damage. (1,750 php)

Skincalming Treatment Powder—Delivers soothing on-the-go with a green powder treatment to relieve and restore the skin, while immediately covering redness. Goji berry extract provides cure minerals to strengthen the skin, while vitamin E and zinc oxide reduce overall redness and heal irritated skin. (1,750 php)

Redness Therapy Serum—In addition to the basic one regimen, a professional strength spa facial treatment is available. Calming sensitive skin to benefit from the application of rare, deeply calming facial masks. This therapeutic facial features Murad's patented formulas designed to infuse ingredients that soothe inflammation and strengthen the skin's barrier function to allow maximum relief. It visibly diminishes redness and sensitivity and restores hydration and suppleness.

Redness therapy combats sensitive skin irritation

By Howard Murad M.D.
Contributor

LET THE RED OUT! THE new Redness Therapy line by Murad is the first over skincare regimen created to address Rosacea like redness and sensitive skin. Formulated by leading 16 million inventions called Time Release, SOS must go unnoticed, as it is of irritation misdiagnosed as acne or due to smaller redness, sensitivity and pimples. However, using the Hand of Murad Dermatologist, CEO and founder of Murad, Inc. and author of "Wrinkle-Free Forever" has the solution.

The Murad Redness Therapy line consists of four products including Soothing Gel Cleanser, Revitalizing Treatment Gel, Correcting Moisturizer SPF 15, and Neutralizing Treatment Powder. When used together as a system, these especially formulated, patented products reduce redness, skin irritation, sensitivity and visible blemishes. You can especially exfoliating.

As a pioneer in the field of dermatology, Murad created this highly specialized line by researching about ingredients severe redness used in skincare products. Murad says, "There are three ways to combine, there was food. In the course of my efforts to understand the benefits of nature, I used food sources as the foundation for many of my scientific formulas including sugarcane, pomegranate extract and noni, goji berry. While there is no cure or prevention for Rosacea, I have incorporated many of nature's ingredients to calm the symptoms and ease the discomfort. Tea from the plant is traditional Mongolian and Tibetan medicine for centuries as powerful antioxidants with 100 times the vitamin C of oranges. Considered one of the most environmentally dense foods for the planet, goji berries are full of essential fatty acids and have 18 amino acids. They provide superior protection and healing to inflamed skin. They also reduce free radical damage and even out redness."

The Murad Redness Therapy line includes four breakthrough skincare products:

Soothing Gel Cleanser—Cleans away impurities while reducing redness with this patented gel that combines skin-calming bran and inflammatories. Blemishes vanished levels sebum, rough, dry skin, while goji berry extract provides superior protection against re-flammed skin. (1,200 php)

Revitalizing Treatment Gel—Salicylic acid and vitamin E improve hydration and calm flushed skin while goji berry extract accelerates the healing of dry, flaky skin. Zinc oxide and peppermint leaf oil create a subtle skin and help reduce redness and irritation, allowing natural skin tones to appear. (1,750 php)

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GREAT FASHION FINDS AT NEW SURPLUS STORES IN MAKATI AND FAIRVIEW

With a brand-new takeaway, the new Surplus at SM Fairview has a wide entrance with a lighted signage that still entices shoppers to go in and hunt for great fashion finds at affordable prices.

There's now twice as much shopping fun for the kids and the fashionistas with the opening of two brand-new Surplus stores at the Lower Ground Floor of SM City Fairview and at the Third Level (MF7 Side) of the forthcoming at SM Makati.

The brand-new Surplus stores are treasure troves of great fashion finds at incredible savings, and have a modern, new look to serve customers in different parts of the Metro area. The 600 square meter Surplus store in Fairview will bring fashion excitement to residents in this up-and-coming suburban area, while the 250 square meter Surplus in Makati will bring stylish and trendy shopping to this bustling business district.

A wide entrance with the new Surplus brand instantly welcomes shoppers to both stores, leading them to a shopping environment that is modern and vibrant from thing in the new stores is built to making the new character the "norm". The curved store fascia envelopes the shopping environment, allowing shoppers to move around the store with ease. The stores are also designed to create a personal relationship with the customers by making their journey open, friendly, and accessible.

Conventional and wide paths in the store create maximum and seamless browsing from one area to the next. The circular theme extends to the floor where a circular spot, mandatory dash from blue to red thereabouts part of the store, highlighting the merchandise mix. The ceiling is accented with oval ceiling panels that create an abstract modern art look. Mannequins and lighting covers on pillars, fixtures, showcase, and counter space.

Stylish trendy pieces for ladies and men are showcased in display tables and mannequins in partly-exposed and naked-wood solid to the store's urban yet relaxed atmosphere, while cutting edge graphics complement the entire visual effect that said trendy-set ambiance that leads customers to the stores' good finds. Customer touch points like the store entrances and POS counters allow customers time to see and watch.

At the brand-new Surplus, shoppers will continue to enjoy creating, matching, and layering stylishly-affordable finds at affordable prices. There are graphic tees, trip and athleisure jackets, cool and practical pairs of shorts and pants, fabulous-yet-low Surplus' collection of hot and hip tops, pretty skirts, and flirty-yet-sweet embroidered ruffled tie or classic belts, necks, and accessories.

Since it first opened in 1994, Surplus has been on the forefront of fashion. And there's still something new to discover every week – as well as the best deals in fashion – at the new Surplus stores at the Lower Ground Floor of SM City Fairview and the Third Level (MF7 Side) of the forthcoming at SM Makati.

Young, urban, fun-ny, and simply cool

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony during the opening of the new Surplus at SM Makati, young actress Bianca King and JC Coudrain were joined by, from left, VP for Merchandising New Fashion Malls Avie Cruz, Area Manager Robert C. Nepales, designer and director of PHILAB Tony Watchmaker, AVP for Product Development Tess Uy-Pe, Cecilia Mateo, AVP for Merchandising Jasmine Reed's Aston, and Surplus Sr. Area Manager Sofia Flores.

Young artiste Iwana Anne Young shows off her fashion finds from the new Surplus at SM Fairview.

VP for Merchandising, New Fashion Malls Avie Cruz and Lucenn Young

Young artiste Bianca King and JC Coudrain were seen at the opening of Surplus at SM Makati.

Bianca King set her eyes on this vibrant colored sleeveless outfit when she was also...

At the new Surplus, the brand-SM merchandise are arranged per category and per price point. Boutique rows of cool jackets displayed by the back wall.

Surplus' cutting edge graphics create an ambience that plays up on leading the customers to the store's great finds.

JC Coudrain (center) and interesting angels pose with ones during the opening of Surplus at SM Makati.

PHILAB director Tony Watchmaker (center) by, from left, SM Prime MCS AVP-Area Manager, VP for Operations Cecilia Mateo, AVP for Merchandising Mina Fuentes-Asbeloa Cruz.

The new Surplus showcases interesting mood-setting pieces that create a modern art look.

The new Surplus is a treasure trove of great fashion finds at incredible savings displayed on mesmerizing graphics and coming within a fashionable chic appearance.

The new Surplus has wide aisles and display that engage and inspire shoppers to dig into the great fashion finds.

Cool stripped pants and new lighting concepts convey a modern, industrial, smoke-shack...

DRESSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT SURPLUS

Look via Eddy elegant in a printed, sleeveless top layered with a crisp tucked white tops.

Looking dandy in an argyle vest over a striped sweater shirt.

With Christmas just around the corner, now's the best time to start selecting fashionable pieces that you can mix and match with your holiday wardrobe.

Shoppers will enjoy great fashion finds at Surplus – clothes simply perfect for those endless parties and gatherings – all at insanely low savings.

Ladies will love the softness of the sheer printed top as well as soft flowing dresses you can mix and match with just about anything. Cool cover-ups like faux leather jackets and bedazzling cardigans with faux fur lend the way for smart and stylish dressing. Men, on the other hand, can opt for hip denim shirts, argyle vests, and cool cardigans for modern-yuppie styled layering.

The collection is completed at the brand new Surplus stores at the Lower Ground Floor of SM Fairview, and at the Third Level (MF7 Side) of the forthcoming at SM Makati. Surplus recently opened a new store at SM Megamall Building A, and has several SM Megamall Building B, the Block at SM City Sta Rosa, SM City Manila, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Bicutan, SM City Pampanga, SM City Clark, SM City Novaliches, SM City Sucat, SM Southmall, and the SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, there is a located in the SM Supermalls in Baguio, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and Cebu in the Visayas area.

Go in a tie black and white oil sleeveless tank, chic dress and sequined halter top from Surplus.

Vest-ed interests from neat navy wear a pullover sweater shirt.

Feminine thrills and frills. Argyle patterned ruffled top worn with a fancy lace cardigan and a chiffon skirt.

Slim and sleek in a fashion sleeveless shirt.

Bars and dots to tell time? Make way for futuristic watches

By Ronna Capili
Contributor

HOW DO YOU TELL TIME WITH A square face, watch with bars or dots as indicators? Our link: Matthew Waldman, the designer and artist behind this unique watch. Nooka, created the designers in 1997 while working in his own design studio. Waldman is one of the pioneers of web design and right before the Internet boom, saw how an evening invitation invitations for websites, which eventually lead to Nooka's inception.

Waldman shares while admits tend to accept things as "the way it is," he could not help but question every common object and its concept and construction as a designer.

"I like to put it this way: if you gave a 5-year-old a pair of shoes with shoelaces and didn't teach them how to use it, you wouldn't get a very good result. But since the '90s, you have the Velcro shoes for children, and they can figure out how to take their shoes on and off without assistance," Waldman said. "I'm not saying shoelaces are bad, but as an interface for shoes, it's more complicated than the Velcro."

His interest in inventive design led him to rethink one of life's most basic needs, how to tell time.

"One day I was looking at a wall clock and it just struck me that you have to learn this," Waldman began.

"If a 3-year-old or someone from another planet looks at it, it's like 'Oh well, what are the numbers? What kind of math is it? Long-hand, short-hand to what?' I'm not saying it's so difficult that no one can figure it out, but what struck me is there are only two modalities of telling time, analog and digital, but they have inverse constructs," he explained.

As a designer, Waldman believes designs must not just be trendy, but also practical, thus the Nooka and graphic representation of time.

He shares his message and design philosophy is almost universal communication, and by universal, he wasn't only thinking about our world.

"A 6-year-old is learning how 10 multiplied the clock is base 12 math and it's not a watch that bypasses math. You look at it, and you get a sense time is passing, and that's how the Nooka was born."

Depending on the watch model, one can easily figure out how to tell time without reading the manual. Some designs use dots for the hours and the number of black dots means the time, while numbers can be measured through a line that spans from zero to 60. Other designs, such as the Zub Glam, use bars for hours, minutes and seconds, while others, like the Sub Glam Aliengrunk, mix the digital method with a number for the hour and bars or dots for the minutes.

The bars and dots, Waldman said, were inspired by the level of watch stubborn learned.

"Johnny has three apples, you have an apple. If you give Johnny one of your apples, how many apples does Johnny have?" This is the way I was thinking," Waldman said. "I just wanted it to be very very basic, very easy to understand. I wanted a visual language." And the dots were somehow a spin off on those apples.

Design inspirations

While most of Waldman's inspirations involve thinking back to when a child could easily understand and pick up on his own, the timepieces have him looking forward.

"We were living in the late '80s and seeing your name and everything looked so old...on the name," he shares. "Cars looked the same, airplanes looked the same, people were still wearing ties and tying their shoelaces!"

Waldman says the likes of Vivien Castle and Issey Miyake in the '70s were some of the fashion designers he admired, which made him think people would dress in such fashion in the future.

The all-metal square face was his deliberate move to make the watch look "kinda not-it" and it's shape and feel were created with one thing in mind: "I wanted it to look comfortable on a spaceship."

"I'm not a 'watch person' and I'm not them the watch industry. I never sat down and said 'I want to design a watch,'" Waldman confessed. He brainstormed about redesigning other common objects because of his penchant for intuitive interfaces, "but the watch, it presented itself" he said.

Zub 21 purple

Bringing it to the market

Though Waldman encountered challenges to getting funding for his creation, it wasn't long before he decided to risk everything he had on Nooka.

He shares it was a light-hearted decision and a win-win situation in his eyes: "If I sell I'll have made my money back and started something totally different from what I was doing. If I don't sell them, I'll have Christmas gift for everyone I know for 50 years and I'll have cool ones because I'll be the only one that has them and I designed it!" he said with a laugh.

Nooka Zub Orange

Waldman never got to save on Christmas gifts because the watch sold out in just 6 nine months. Nooka is now celebrating its 10th anniversary and has added toys, bolts, sunglasses and a fragrance to their product line.

The toys, named Nooka Nooka, is the company's entry into the urban vinyl toy community. The toys consist of characters from London, US and Japan.

For 2010, Nooka will launch its first fragrance, which Waldman described to have a round scent.

Its top notes, cuddle notes, and base notes are used in with each other and is made for both men and women. Waldman added his genius to try this because it was another product that could convey universal communication.

"I find it simple—if you like the smell, you buy it...if you don't, you don't buy it."

Zub metallic gold

"At the end of the day, I'm designing things that I want?" Waldman said with a laugh. He wears one of Nooka's looks in the interview, similar to an army jacket, both another one of his designs and a style he personally likes. Waldman also brought a pair of Nooka sunglasses designed similar to a diamond's facets with reflective lenses, metal trim, and covered almost the entire eye area in a tri-X manner.

"We're not doing this style because my staff says it only looks good on me and Asian women," he said. "Well, maybe we'll do designs for some markets."

He hope in time, we may look to the future with Waldman dressing his stylish sunglasses.

Stop losing your hair. Regain your confidence!

For most women losing hair is like losing vibrancy, self confidence and self esteem. And this could lead to depression, anxiety and feelings of inferiority. Stop losing your hair. If there are women like Interior Designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Designer Eva Abesamis who fought and triumphed against hairloss – you can, too. Discover their secret.

Excessive stress, genes or too much extreme styling methods could cause women's hairloss. To stop falling and thinning, one needs the right treatments. In the Philippines, there's only one hairloss centre where advanced treatments and highly trained technologists are found: **Svenson**.

Tessa fought thinning hair as soon as she experienced its early signs. "Thinning hair makes a woman look older. I didn't want that to happen to me. When I noticed lots of hair on my pillow and my

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

hair started to thin out, I immediately bought 'thickening' shampoos like I was disappointed. They didn't stop my problem. Good thing I discovered Svenson. After a course of treatments, my hair regained its original volume. It's even softer, more lustrous. I could style it any way I want it!"

Eva Abesamis

Eva, on the other hand, wanted her results for her hair. "I didn't want to use other products. I just wanted the best. When a friend recommended Svenson, I decided to give it a try. I had no more falling hair. It's back to its lush, shiny, charming look. I knew I made the right decision. Thanks to Svenson!"

Stop falling and thinning hair. Call Svenson at 892-HAIR (4247)/ 234-4855(Cebu) today for a FREE consultation. You can be assured that all consultations are carried out in private.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Two fashion staples get a timely makeover

Two fashion staples get a timely makeover

By Cleo Ivy Plaza

WHY FIX IT IF IT AIN'T BROKE?

In the case of Rustan's house labels Jill and Luna, now undergoing a metamorphosis of sorts to the hands of designer Jojie Lloren, it's not so much a matter of fixing as much as "redefining" the brands to fit the image of today's contemporary woman.

What's according to Rustan's creative director Inno Soriz:

On Nov. 14, Lloren will present both Luna and Jill's holiday collections in a fashion show, his first for the two brands since he signed up — after much contemplation — for the job recently.

While both brands have been doing all right, says Rustan Tantoco Lobregat, the department store's executive buyer for women, they just wanted "something new" as Rustan's' anniversary promise of updating itself.

Legacy

Founded by Lobregat's late grandmother, Gloria Roa y Tantoco, Rustan's began as a small specialty boutique in 1932. Tantoco's vision was to bring new brands into what would become the country's most upscale department store.

"Nanan's had the correct called Haus d'Epoque, which had all these imported brands — Guy Laroche, Valentino, Lanvin," recalls Soriz. "[Tantoco] also wanted to encouraging local designers to create their own brands. Those was Lanie Silva, Pepita Albert, Rhett Eala. The generation of the Tantoco family is fully aware of the legacy she left behind and they want to continue that. With Jojie, we want to cover the left off... Even if they're private labels, they're just as good."

Luna is an after-six women's line that debuted in the early '90s, and has undergone several transformations through the years under in-house designers like Nicky Fe. (nicky) and Pia Regala-Beltran.

Pinoy-ness's texture, which had pull dresses and a bit of boa-free styles, attracted the ballroom-dancing crowd of that decade. When Regala-Beltran took over, she adopted the minimalist bent of '90s fashion and catered to women attending weddings and cocktail parties.

Also for the 29-and-up demographic, Jill debuted in 2000 as Rustan's' answer to brands like Banana Republic, casual and elegant separates and daywear for working women.

Both brands have since been under the store's in-house design team, following Regala-Beltran's departure in 2006.

Best known for his sharp tailoring and graphic, architectural designs, the Parisian-trained Lloren isn't revamping the look of both brands — at least not just yet.

"I made some small changes," he says. "I don't want to alienate the core customers of both labels. I don't want to change it (completely) right away."

That, even as he was given free hand to define what Soriz calls "the image of the contemporary woman."

"It's Jojie's show," says Soriz. "We've just here to hold his hand."

Launch pad

Not that he means Lloren has any need for a crutch, of course. After all, ready-to-wear was the launch pad of Lloren's career, designing an eponymous label and some other brands before making his mark in couture. Bego, he knows he repeats.

"It took me a while to say yes," Lloren admits. "Both labels already had their identities and I was hesitant because my aesthetic might clash with them. But they gave me a free hand. I resolved to treat (the project) as my baby."

Jojie Lloren is redefining Rustan's' house labels Jill and Luna

FROM JILL, charcoal-gray stretch cotton-twill, yellow collared shirt and slim pants

The deal also appealed to Lloren as he would only be in charge of the creative part. Not long ago, he discontinued his line for a Greenbelt 5 boutique when production got in the way of his couture business.

"Now I have more resources," he says. "For Myth, I was producing on my own."

No other designer was considered for Lloren's job, says Soriz. "Way how designers can actually define a generation, but Jojie is certainly up there... (The goal) wasn't as much about finding an established designer, but choosing the best designer for the job."

Lobregat adds, "It's about hard to find the right match. It's like marrying somebody, so we didn't want to rush it."

While Lloren's stamp clearly adds prominence to both labels, he forgot assures it won't affect the price points. Jill ready-to-wear are currently priced at: QTY, which from PP,000-PP,000; Luna from: P2,500 (P15,000.) And if Lloren's image of a contemporary woman is that of a classy-value shopper, it seems he has it down pat with "mix-match separates" for his premiere collection, not just for Jill but also for the dressier Luna.

(The holiday collections will be in Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La by the first week of November.)

With a twist

"There are classics with a twist," he says of the premiere pieces... stretch poplin shirts and tuxes with subtly sculptured sleeves for Jill, and black crepe dresses with pleated chiffon accents at the neckline, some dramatic or on-tailed editorial pieces will also be dressier into the mix, he promises.

Asked if the two brands are being repositioned against Tyra, a line he's of popular brand among yuppies that Lloren, incidentally, also designed in the past, an amused Lobregat replies with a nonsuiting no.

It must come with age and experience, the restraint and prudence in Lloren's part, opting for an initial one-year contract or four collections.

"It's Rustan's!" he points out emphatically. "I don't want to short-change them. I want it to be successful, not a one-season thing."

So yes, as Lobregat says, they'll take things slow and build things up.

KATRINA Tantoco Lobregat

INNO Soriz

JOJI Lloren

BLACK cotton stretch poplin dress with raglan puff sleeves from Jill by Jojie Lloren

ASIA pleated chiffon halter top and black crepe short shorts from Luna by Jojie Lloren

SIZZLING WITH A TWIST. Crepe mini dress with halter & pleated chiffon accent

TOP Cruz Bautista

STUDENTS learn hairstyling basics and makeup skills

Beauty and values in one school

By Liz Bersamin

FOR THE BENILDE FOUNDATION, SMILING people feel better about themselves as a worthy endeavor. Through its Center for Aesthetic Studies, the foundation has helped people pursue careers in the beauty industry.

Located on Jupiter Street, the Center for Aesthetic Studies is managed by Tuba Cruz Bautista, best-selling author of "The Maid Manual," published by Good Housekeeping.

Bautista gave us a tour of the school's first class facilities and introduced us to its talented faculty. Courses include basic haircut, styling, coloring and makeup, and massage therapy. Many of its teachers and graduates have been hired and interviewed hair and makeup-wizards.

Bautista stresses that the school goes beyond skills training by focusing on value formation as an essential part of the center's learning philosophy.

The foundation also offers livelihood programs and scholarships. Projects focus on cosmetology, singing, domestic training and values formation.

For more information, visit the Center for Aesthetic Studies at 120 Jupiter St., Makati; tel. 8176365; e-mail info@csbmo.org.

Avon's new fragrance

Avon Sol (604-2809) presents Spotlight, its new fragrance. Its top notes are icy citrus accord, mandarin mousse, Italian bergamot essence, hydroponic artificial neroli, balsamic absolute, ammoniacone, cardamom, sandalwood, vetiver, and amber crystals. The top glamour essence with a hint Spotlight exclusively hydrolimmer gel. Available exclusively through Avon representatives nationwide.

Vanity Bucket

Cosmetic contact lens

Fresh Look Colorblends Contact lenses protect the eyes from the retina 99 rays. Its Color Effects is available in blue, honey, green, gray, brown, turquoise, amethyst, hazel sapphire and pure hazel.

SPECIAL OFFER! Php 6,495.00

10.1 Mega Pixels
2.5" LCD Monitor
3x OPTICAL Zoom
5.7x Digital Zoom
Blue Rubber Grip
Face & Smile Detection

GE A1035

FREE: 2GB SD Memory Card
AA Rechargeable Battery w/ Charger and Case

Picture City

Bobbie's glittery colors

Bobbie Hot Polish offers Bobbie Glitter available in (clockwise, purple dazzle, speakeasy, black shadow, blue flash, jade and topaz. Each bottle contains a coat that makes the nail polish more wear resistant, durable and glossy. Available at Rockstore stores, SM outlets, Landmark and other drugstores, supermarkets and department stores nationwide.

Color precision eye shadow

Max Factor's Max Precision Colour Effects Eyeshadow collection includes Masterpiece, Masterpiece Max and Beyond Length Mascaras, each featuring the award-winning XX brush, and Masterpiece Stick and Define Eyeliner, for smooth eye lining. The eyeshadow has shades of Icicle Bronze, Coffee, Night Sky, Pearl Beige and Bubble Green. Available in all leading department stores.

For hair fall control

Pantene's Hair Fall Control shampoo and conditioner combats hair breakage through its Pro-V formula. Shampoo and conditioner P0 to 100 ml.

Nu Skin Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Ricky de Vera

Nu Skin Enterprises, with their commitment to providing quality personal care and nutritional supplements around the world, celebrated their 25th anniversary of providing top of the line products. Their "all of the good, none of the bad" heritage still remains after two and a half decades.

In the Philippines, to commemorate the occasion Nu Skin held their awarding ceremonies at the World Trade Center last September 10. The pinnacle recognized Nu Skin's best and brightest Distributors who are behind the company's continued success through the years. It is amazing to witness how many lives have been improved through hard work and perseverance, the Nu Skin way.

Presenting the donation to CHILD Foundation, (L to R) Nu Skin Singapore Team Elite Executive Rainie Ho, Chairman of CHILD Foundation, Dr. Rina Mancino, Nu Skin South East Asia President Melba Ramoso – Quijano

As part of the Nu Skin's Force For Good Culture, a check amounting to P750, 000.00 was presented to the Child Health is Life and Development (CHILD) Foundation. The donation came from businessmen from Nu Skin Singapore and Malaysia. CHILD is a non-profit organization that provides financial support to the Philippine General Hospital's Department of Pediatrics. Part of the Force For Good's program includes supporting heart surgeries of children, aiming to sponsor 15 children by the end of 2009. One of the beneficiaries, 18 month old Shawn Jarred Herrera together with his mother Jasmine Herrera, graced the event and thanked Nu Skin personally for the company's support in the child's successful operation.

Nu Skin also encourages others to help by participating in their Sponsor-A-Child Project, through the Southeast Asia Children's Heart Fund. Donors can either sponsor surgeries, or help in procuring medical supplies and equipment that can be a big help for the hospital. In the Pediatric Ward alone, there are more than 100 children afflicted with different types of heart disease. Sadly, few can afford operations. An estimated 70% are still on the waiting list.

Jasmine & Jarrette Herrera with Nu Skin Blue Diamond Executive, Nino Hurtibise

Nu Skin Diamond Executives, Lito and Daisy Aguirre, the first Philippine Million Dollar Circle members, based in the United States, were the guests of honor. Mrs. Aguirre shared the story of their success, how they prevailed over the hardships of living in a foreign land, trying to make ends meet until they found Nu Skin. They were the ones who suggested that Nu Skin Enterprise be introduced in the Philippines back in 1998.

Daisy Aguirre and the behind history

Nu Skin's 25 years in the business only proves that they are doing something right. Their excellent product lines together with their brilliant business model create a perfect formula for a company that's here to stay.

hour

Bigen Silk Touch PRESENTS

Touch of Class PROMO

The rewards of beautifully colored hair.

1st Draw - November 16, 2009 • 2nd Draw - December 16, 2009 • Grand Draw - January 16, 2010

Promo duration is from October 10, 2009 to January 15, 2010.

Watsons

BEAUTY BAR

The Landmark

Metro

The jacket gets its due

It's a cool, urban-street look that balances the tough and the feminine

FROM THE FASHION capitals of New York to Paris, the fall season is all about the inspired jacket.

Sleek leather moto-style jackets, puffer numbers, bright military suit jackets...it's a look that can be incorporated locally as the first cool breezes wait in for the holiday season.

The look is cool, urban-street style that balances the tough and the feminine.

Mabuhay!

Jessi J. Epperson

Homage

Over at the House of Chanel, the idea was all about "growing up yet youthful"—translated into feminine white collars and cuffs trimmed with chiffon, frills and ruffs and fitted black silhouettes, courtesy of Karl Lagerfeld.

He rolled the collection "Belle Strammell," a kind of monologue that pays homage to the British Regency dandy who dictated men's fashion by tying his cravats in elaborate configurations.

Lagerfeld also incorporated the classic Chanel white georgette tie line, knit and satin, and worked the season's motorcycle leathers to drop-waist dresses and puffer jackets.

At the Dries Van Noten runway, the Belgian-based couture house's extreme color combinations brought life to the collection with shrimp pink, beige, ochre, orange and maroon.

Designer Stella McCartney's Fall collection, meanwhile, incorporated jackets in black and white, or red and black micro-checks, which were also worn as dresses paired with vegan legging boots. Also in the collection were cocoon coats paired with skinny belts.

Spending of boots, here's something to watch out for—this season's extreme footwear, a hybrid of boots and leggings. Not sure how this would fly, but it'll be interesting to watch!

Party mood

Lastly, Emmanuel Ungaro welcomed the fall in a party mood. Designer Cormier pumped up the runway with party frocks—fitted strapless dresses in fuchsia, orange and royal blue, sky-high heels, paired with cute ponytails jackets and silk scarves tied around the neck.

On the tailored side, a blue leather jacket was paired with high-waisted satin pants with fetching pockets on the hips.

Take a cue from these designers' inspired combinations...silk scarves paired with leather jackets, coats with skinny belts, jackets over dresses and cotton soles, color!

Visit www.jessiepperson.com and follow me on http://twitter.com/jessiepperson

Dance Theatre Arts

"The mission of Dance Theatre Arts is to nurture, encourage, and challenge students to achieve their potential for artistry and self-confidence through BALLET. DTA provide examinations and performance opportunities that assist students to develop technically and artistically. Students will demonstrate self-discipline, poise, self-esteem, and the ability to interact with others while working toward group goals."

At the fifth floor of Watermart,Makatitnoi nos.372-2665/487-8083) can be found a studio founded by two equally inspiring teachers: Dr. Pamela Ortiz Bonitoc, ACSM, and Mr.Brednnev Larlar.

Dance Theatre Arts, which opened on April 1, 2009, boasts of already having 150 enrolled ballet students since its opening. The studio offers a selection of dance lessons and specialties in classical and modern ballet. With Dr. Bonitoc, being an Associate of the Australian Conservatoire of Ballet (ACB), the studio follows the ACB curriculum in teaching ballet. The aim of the studio is to prepare its students to enter into college dance programs and possibly secure scholarships, dance professionally or just develop a lifetime love for the art of dance. To date, more than a dozen of its students are in La Salle Bandas, enjoying a college scholarship in the course they have chosen. "We treat the students as our own children. We are adamant that they graduate from college so that what ever happens, they will have a fallback." Dr. Bonitoc and Larlar said. Both are happy in the knowledge that the student's parents have given them their trust not only in teaching their children to dance but also with regard to their children's welfare.

Dance Theatre Arts have adopted the Russian Based (Vaganova) method of teaching Ballet under the Australian Conservatoire of Ballet, (ACB), of Ms. Christine Walsh, R.M. Their students have regularly taken the ACB examination with EXCELLENT Results. Some of these students were even given "Personal Scholarships and or Study Grants "by Ms. Walsh.

Both teachers are also using the Philippine National Ballet Syllabus, which is based on the Royal Academy in Dance (London), Cecchetti (Italian) and Russian. This type of syllabus encompasses the teaching of classical ballet suited to the physique of the Filipino children, a syllabus that fast tracks the child's learning without straining its body, and a syllabus for the child who needs to appreciate the rich blend of Asian and Western influences in their life.

Their dance curriculum includes regular technique classes in classical and contemporary ballet, modern, and jazz., Additional instruction is provided in Pas de Deux classes, Character, Improvisation, Mime, Choreography, Creative Movements and Musical Theater.

Aside from ballet, they also offer Hiphop, Hawaiian, Tap Dancing, Musical Theater, Individual or group Musical Instruments classes, Visual Arts, Karate, Taekwondo, Aikido, Gymnastics Body Conditioning, Belly Dancing, and Yoga.

"We train children in a carefully disciplined, professional environment, to ensure their proper development and maturity in their choice of Art." added Dr. Pam and Brednev.

what's hot what's hot what's hot what's

Eco-friendly thin TV

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS HAS SOLD ONE MILLION UNITS of its first full line of advanced LED HDTVs in just six months since their launch in March.

Commanding over 90 percent of the global market, the number of LED TVs sold by Samsung is already more than five times that of all the LED TVs sold in 2008 around the world (196,000).

It also exceeds the LCD TVs sold (860,000) in 2003 when Samsung first entered the LCD TV market.

The rapidly growing LED TV market is likely to expand from 3.7 million units this year to over 15 million units next year, approximately 40 million units in 2011, and 64 million units in 2012, according to DisplaySearch.

The huge success of Samsung's LED HDTVs has driven the company's strong performance in the TV category, helping it capture 23 percent of the global LCD TV market in 2009.

It also contributed to the company achieving over 10 percent operating margin for its overall TV business division.

The world's thinnest TV at 20.9 mm, Samsung's LED HDTVs offer unrivalled picture quality, featuring cutting-edge, proprietary display tech. nologies that allow consumers to experience life in a hyperreal realm.

They are also highly eco-friendly from design to manufacturing and distribution, consuming 40 percent less power than conventional LCD TVs.

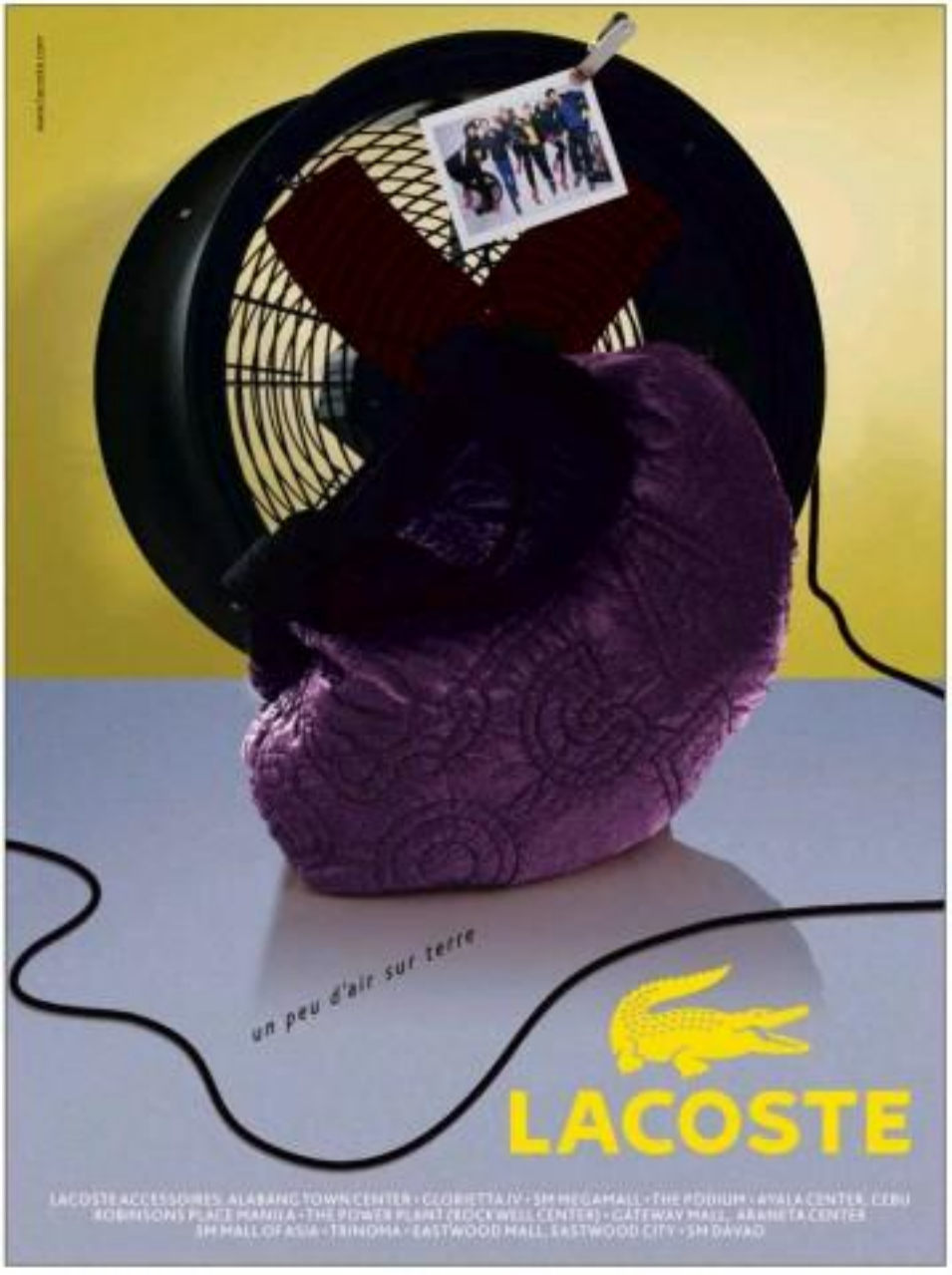
THINK(s) is, Samsung's LED HDTV—the world's slimmest

SAMSUNG has sold over one million units of its first full line of advanced LED HDTVs in six months.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Shout out, let young voices be heard, win prizes

SEE STORY ON PAGE E3



SAMO officers Chito Melo, Charlie Calanoga, Hugo Zubiel and Louie Trunzel

THE ESTABLISHMENT'S Anton San Diego with businessman Johnny Nakagawa, marvel's Store Specialist/Ramon San Agustin

INTERIOR designer Ayiee Mendoza, Lauren, Pepper Tantoyuco and Joji Dingcong

CHARLIE Capanga with his steady escort, gorgeous Carol Garcia

LAWYER Lito Marcos

LACSON'S pal from European days, Ricky Fernandez Zubiel

HARPI Macua and Cecile Reyeros-Kalmus

THE SONGCO threesome: Our host, world traveler and Monte Carlo-based banker Eduardo "Nene" Lacson, Lacson with classmate Mimi Perpiñan Singson and his wife Gloria Duchesne

Nene Lacson treats his friends to dinner at French bistro

AGO ESCUDERO with Raul Sandoz and Kat Sioco (seated); Sandy and Cecille Limjoco with Loigi Sioco

HE often travels around the globe and has rubbed elbows with the name-droppables in Forbes Magazine, bankers, CEOs and socialites.

He spends his birthday or Christmas holidays in his house in Boracay, or in Brazil or South Africa where the head office of his bank is located, pahanggan. And he can whip up dinners faster than you can say Lea Salonga when entertaining friends at his home in Cote de Azul.

Nene Cuño-Lacson, brilliant banker of Gen. Pacific Group Holding, Eduardo "Nene" Ledesma Lacson, a man of manners and endowment, plays host and travels hard.

Loving, yes every bit heavenly for the wedding of his close pal Charlie Cuenca, he decided to give dinner for 15 friends at the up scale Friends Bistro Crystal Room of the world class bar and restaurant, The Establishment, at the Peak.

Champagne and popcorn enrobed with truffle oil was an appetizer at the Tuscan-Spanish tapa room. A to-die-for six course dinner and desserts were prepared by mega-talented chef Geoffrey Lafuente, pahanggan.

As Filipino wont, more drinks were served before we all called it a night at 3:30 a.m.

Our host couldn't have been happier seeing the get-together of his friends before returning Stateside and going back to Monte Carlo and New York, pahanggan.

King for all times

It was one invitation we simply could not miss, pahanggan. The birthday celebration—patron of the arts, icon of Philippine culture and host with the most—was Gamaliel "Nilo" Cruz-Sr. (no kin).

It was bumper to bumper at the parallel like Villa Escudero in Tiaong, Quezon, with name-droppables from all sectors of the country dahilings.

The 600 guests occupied the air-conditioned Convention Center and nearby Pedring Pavilli International dishes were prepared by the chefs of Villa Escudero. Relief entertainment was provided by Herman Reyes and Dianne and Floyd Lim.

Junior Manuel Panganiban seemed everyone's sentiments with his birthday wish for the celebrator: "May you live as long as you can and may your cute ass hang as your liver".

The grand bash continued with personal ones at Ador's gorgeous private residence. "I love to show off my home," he laughingly told everyone as he invited them to join him. The famed Villa Escudero Museum and Escudero Ancestral Mansion were also opened to us.

Sip-and-see, feeders-in-demand chef Greg Hontiveros serve from Bulo for that awesome celebration of our king for all times. Ado Escudero, dahilings.

Avenue never bags

Born with the Four Bs, annoyingly beautiful Andrea Aranas-Alcuaz is the awesome ex-

CONFIDELO Tan, Consuelo Escudero with Bikel Tinsel, and daughter Glenda Barretto

JIMMY Lazo and Sheri and Nani Bautista (seated); Janice Secretary Agnes Gonzaludo and Ok Yi Torres-Yoshizaki

NOEL Mesa and wife Lolita Mirpuri and John Castiglione

SUE Connel's Prince Lito and Tess Gonzales

LUCILLE Villaponte and Lenny Arriola

DEVANADERA and Thailand's Ambassador Kukiatrat Singhara Na Ayudhya

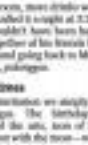
BABI Fajardo with Ding Hontiveros, Noel Hirasol, Judy Araneta-Rosas, Ricky Elevar, Bei de Jesus, Jimmy Magbanua and Douglas Balmores

"CHINESE Fishermen With Their Catch of the Day," watercolor by Zubiel

THE SONGCO threesome: Our host, world traveler and Monte Carlo-based banker Eduardo "Nene" Lacson, Lacson with classmate Mimi Perpiñan Singson and his wife Gloria Duchesne

ARIANA Barcelo with Isabel Rivera, Heart Evangelista and Rissa Mercurio

JEAN Salonga Fernando with Vivoo Gomez


WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnaiz

Photos by Alex Von Hagen using TRL Photo Solutions

THE DAZZLING star of the night, talented bag designer and entrepreneur Amina Arunan, with her handsome husband, businessman Rob Alonzo

KAT CRUZ with Carlo Villanueva, Mikaela Lagdameo-Martinez and Bianca Gonzalez

MEMBERS Dely's MC Perdon and Jenny Ynsuangco with Jesse Lava

ZUBIEL analyzing with top professors at Guangzhou Academy of Arts

entrepreneur and creative force behind Aranas the bag maven's degree in Accessories Design from famous Mascopsat in Milan. Her in-demand Aranas bag is handmade, with touches of pearl, cocoon shells, wood beads, stones, combined with luxurious fabrics and leathers. Each bag is truly Filipino, dahilings. Fashionistas in town own the unique and chic bags. Amina's lovely cousins Karylle, Heart Evangelista, Andrea Torres, Isabel Rivera, Rissa Hontiveros, Antonia Bermek, Bea Soriano, Michaela Lagdameo, Bianca Gonzalez, Kelly Misa and mistress nipped Bambu Sapphire and Rocaille cocktails at the Members Only upscale club. Aranas Maxi Bags Limited Edition will not be sold in stores. I was told that night: "This is Amina's way of honoring her mama." Indeed, pahanggan, it was a prudent way to launch the second batch of Prive.

Vicky Zubiri exhibit

Vicky E Zubiri has been painting since the 1970s, dahilings. She has dabbled in different media such as oils and acrylics but prefers watercolor as her main medium. She is skilled in both traditional Western watercolor and Chinese watercolor methods.

After part of the Tembo Group of Artists organized by professor Johnny Swanson. She also started one year ago with professor Alex Chan Lim at the Steven Confucius Institute.

On Nov. 12, Vicky will have her first solo art exhibit of more than 40 artworks in Chinese and Western style, "Memories in Watercolor" showcases her travels around the world, and different techniques of Chinese painting. It will be held at the Mezzanine Art Gallery of Peninsula Hotel for one week. The exhibit opens at 5:30 p.m. Part of the proceeds will go to Assumption Malibay and Ayalaowned stations, pahanggan.

MEDITERRANEAN INSPIRED: another large painting by Vicky Zubiri

Shout out, let young voices be heard, win prizes

SAMSUNG CELEBRATES THE FILIPINO youth's imaginations and passion through the "I Imagine" campaign.

Students age 15-25 who are currently enrolled this school year can log on to www.samsungimagine.com, register and create their very own I Imagine shout-out by filling out the statement "I Imagine..."

They can also vote for other I Imagine shout-outs posted on the site. The shout-outs, whether in English or Filipino, must fall under one of the three categories: Talk, for shout-outs that express emotions, ideas, thoughts, dreams, hopes and ambitions; Play, for shout-outs that express how life is experienced through love of music, sports, fashion and the arts; and Love, for shout-outs that express how bonds are formed with family and friends through shared interests and passions.

The winning statement from each category will be printed in limited-edition Samsung "I Imagine" hoodies by Bobbed & Hung.

These will be sold in participating Bobbed & Hung stores starting Jan. 1, 2010.

Proceeds from every sale will be given to Samsung Hope, which sponsors the schooling of young people.

Dreamers will take home prizes such as P100,000 cash, Samsung Corby mobile phone, Samsung ST500 Dual LCD Camera, Samsung CLP315 printer, Samsung LaserPrinter SF330C scanner, Samsung "I Imagine" hoodies and P50,000 worth of gift certificates to F&E stores.

Youthful icons in fashion, music, sports, advocacy, music and online have created their own I Imagine shout-outs:

Rolrom Rimsuff, fashion designer and makeup artist: I Imagine a world with no destruction, with human beings being respectful toward nature so that nothing like "Ondoy" ever happens again.

Chris Tiu, basketball icon and host: I Imagine excellence and greatness coupled in an improvisational and purposeful world.

Akosia Gumtangbas, blogger and creative icon: I imagine a world where fantasy coincides with reality.

Aris Ilaw, writer and supporter of UNV Philippines: I Imagine a world where everyone dances as if no one was watching. I imagine a world where people give love and compassion freely all the time, not just after a calamity.

Ron Constantino, head cutter fashion stylist: I Imagine Philippine fashion breaking into the global scene—our fabrics prevalently used in major shows, our designers headlining major fashion weeks, our photographed, stylebook regularly present in international editorials. Where Pinoy pride is fully realized.

Mon Pacmadan, Team Manila executive director: I Imagine a unified people under one movement.

Daniel Chang, blogger behind style automatic.blogspot.com: I Imagine pure stylishness.

Stephanie Rimbi, fashionista and young marketing manager of Hublot: I Imagine men and women on the same playing field.

Lorenzo Lopez, surfer: I Imagine our world to be underwater if we don't heed mother nature's warnings. And it's going to happen sooner than we know it.

Bobbie Pamias, model and celebrity: I Imagine peace. That's the first thing I imagine right now.

Divine Lee, fashion designer and social-event maven of Globe Astroplus: I Imagine everyone living grateful about the small things in life.

Phil Stringfellow, international footballer: I Imagine that one day the Philippines will be the football capital of Southeast Asia. Football is the country's biggest sport. Filipinos have the natural physique and agility to excel in football. I recently founded the Philip Stringfellow/Pinoy Football Academy, the fulfillment of my vision to promote the awareness and future of football in my mother's homeland. This academy will go back to the Filipino values by being so fused in and nurturing the youth by giving them an exciting and rewarding experience while fostering the importance of hard work, healthy living, team concepts and the importance of having fun each time they step on the pitch.

Eunor Lee, radio DJ and TV host: I Imagine a world without violence, a world where a woman could walk down a dark street alone and not be scared. I imagine a world of love.

Paolo Pineda, fashion photographer: I imagine a world where every one is a superhero.

DIVINE Lee

'I Imagine' campaign celebrates youthful dreams

WITH ITS "I IMAGINE" CAMPAIGN, Samsung focuses on the youth's passions, concerns and viewpoints. Logging on to www.samsung.com/ph directs one to a world filled with bright promises.

Mercedes Manila college students enrolled this school year can register and create their own "I Imagine" shout-out by completing the statement: "I imagine..."

Aside from being a shout-out creation, one may vote for other "I Imagine" shout-outs posted on the site. The shout-outs, whether in English or Filipino, must fall under one of three categories: Talk, for shout-outs that express emotions, ideas, thoughts, dreams, hopes and ambitions; Play, for shout-outs that express how life is experienced through love of music, sports, fashion and the arts; and Love, for shout-outs that express how bonds are formed with family and friends through shared interests and passions.

Only one shout-out may be accepted for each category. Submissions will be accepted until Nov. 10.

Winning statements will be printed on Bobbed & Hung-exclusively designed Samsung "I Imagine" hoodies, which will be available at participating Bobbed & Hung stores in the country.

Individual winners (one per category) will take home prizes such as P50,000 cash, Samsung Corby mobile phone, Samsung ST500 Dual LCD Camera, Samsung CLP-315 printer, Samsung LaserPrinter SF330C scanner, Samsung "I Imagine" hoodies and P10,000 worth of gift certificates from Bobbed & Hung.

Likewise, schools of the respective winners will each receive a Samsung LCD monitor.

Criteria for judging will be: 1) balancing; relevance to the chosen category (40 percent), creativity (40 percent) and total number of online votes (20 percent).

All who register for the campaign, whether to upload a shout-out or vote for posted shout-outs, will be entitled to a chance to win cool Samsung gadgets. Each registration is equivalent to one raffle entry, which will be drawn on Dec. 31.

Up to 500 Samsung "I Imagine" hoodies, 20 Samsung phones and 20 Samsung DVD players are up for grabs.

Samsung will tour different colleges and universities in the metro on the following dates: Nov. 11 at UP Diliman; Nov. 12, San Sebastian College; Nov. 13, Ateneo de Manila University; Nov. 16, San Beda College; Nov. 17, Mapúa College; Nov. 19, De La Salle University; Nov. 19, University of Santo Tomas; and Nov. 20, Far Eastern University.

How Cherie Gil maintains her fab looks

By Irene C. Perez

CHERIE GIL SWEARS SHE WILL NEVER undergo any cosmetic surgery. "I had Botox two years ago and my mom said, 'You look like Cher!'"

At 46, the seasoned actress who is famous for glamorous villain roles had her share of lines and wrinkles which eventually bothered her because they made her look older than she really is.

"I had deep furrows which made me seem fiercer than I really am!" she laughs. "I can't get out of being a conversida even when I am not performing."

She admits the age marks are also caused by smoking—a habit she has been trying to break for the longest time.

"I have been smoking since I was a teen. I have tried everything, but the only time I stopped was when I was pregnant and breast-feeding. I would like to encourage everyone to not even pick up the habit. I admire those people who were able to quit. Smoking has made my skin dull and dry, and has also affected my voice."

Gil is preparing for a stage musical, and she hopes this role would inspire her to use the "right" ingredients for her skin, she goes through non-surgical treatments from Social Care Center (SCC) to make her look fab and ready for those last commitments.

"SCC is a more conservative beauty house. It doesn't have injections, surgeries, medications," Gil says. "And I have done a lot of treatments here."

Anniversary

SCC (www.facialcarecenter.com.ph) recently celebrated its 27th anniversary. The skincare center has been popular for innovative methodologies to subtly and effectively treat a variety of beauty issues, mixes harsh products or harmful procedures.

She credits FCC for giving back her glow-

GET CHERIE! Gil's glowing look, minus the cuts and stitches, at Facial Care Center.

ing skin. One of her favorites is Refirme, a 45-minute painless, non-invasive lifting treatment that smoothens out wrinkles and firms up skin. And she has been doing skincare—you can see results as early as the first treatment.

"I have had Refirme for two years. It's like an instant facelift without the needles and stitches. It makes my cheeks rosy and plump. I usually have it before big gigs like prime roles, pictorials, awards night," Gil shares. "I also had Advanced Liposonix which increases the skin's collagen and elastin production to delay signs of aging."

Gil says all of the treatments she had made her feel comfortable with them. They are not time-consuming and are perfect for her hectic lifestyle.

No downtime

"Another one I am having regularly is Revive," she says in a recent interview for FCC's anniversary.

"Compared with other anti-aging treatments, Revive is less painful, less messy and less time-consuming. You can even put makeup on after 24 hours after a session."

Revive is a combination of infrared and bipolar radio frequency which targets acne scars, blemishes, pockmarks and sun-damaged skin. While you would experience some tingling, it requires no anesthesia and has minimal downtime.

Gil says she is more of a hen-loving kind of mom to kids Ang 25, Ruru, 14, and Rafael, 12. If she's to give a beauty advice to her daughter, it would be to religiously moisturize and to never fail to apply sunscreen.

"You can watch Gil in the soap "Babangue" on ABS-CBN Channel 2. She says she aim fit for her role by working out thrice a week and maintaining a strict diet.

"FCC is for people like Cherie who don't want to go under the knife but want to look glowing. We have in-house dermatologists and skin consultants to make sure clients get the right treatment for them," says Dr. Shirley Lawsure-Holden, cosmetic and pathology dermatologist. "And we also have For Men for guys who want clear, youthful skin."

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

How to do a wedding, Filipiniana style

By Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE BRIDE HAD BEEN dreaming of a Filipiniana wedding all this time, and she got it. So, make that, she did it herself.

Perhaps it's been a while since the country saw a handsome Filipiniana wedding like what Sen. Bong Revilla and broadcaster Jennalist Krissa Sarabia tied last Tuesday at Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City.

It was a lot of hard work, detailed planning, and as fashion designer Hepin Albert puts it, some luck.

Sánchez, who calls herself a "closet Martha Stewart," planned the wedding with Albert, her wedding gown designer; Pastor Ramon Diaz, who designed that of the entourage; and Sandy Ortiz, who designed the groom's barong. Production designer Gino Gonzales was tapped for the church.

For the serpentina-style gown, Albert used piña in cool-era inserted in skirts. While the groom had a strong mark for TV silhouette, to drastic, each in the shield of piña, although subtle, were also interesting.

The embroidery was done by his staff, and his old "embellisher" from Cairta. Embellisher Jamir Sali worked on the embroidery for months, particularly on the five-metre train with flowing vines, leaves, rattoos and tiny flowers inserted in the natural (no trans-parency) sequins for tassel-down sparkle.

Albert lead praise for Sali who, he said, has

THE COUPLE after the rites

It took hard work, detailed planning —and luck, with the Cairta 'embellisher' clutching his embroidered piña during the floods

100-METER long train has images of leaves, Sale flowers traced in the transparent sequins for tassel-down sparkle.

BM. BERNINO Aquino III came without a date.

PRINCIPAL sponsors Eugenio Lopez III and Baby Rosas

PRINCIPAL sponsors Former Sen. Jovito Salonga and Helen Corrales

KMS Aquino and husband James Yap wedding baby James

SEN. MIGUEL Zubiri and Audrey in short lacy dress with sarong cap

How to do a wedding, Filipiniana style

FOR THAT bridal glow, makeup artist Rosario Pisares used Mga Reflection Illuminator a cushioned powder, cool brown shades for the eyes, black mascara and eyeliner, bronzer on the cheeks and mauve red tone for blush and lipstick or eyelash extensions.

From page 11

marked on many fashion masterpieces but remains unknown to the fashion industry. "But is where the luck factor comes in.

Still's house was among those inundated during "Tropical Storm "Ondoy." When the water rose, Still had to seek safety on his roof—cradling his bunch of embroidery at Sanchez's gown. "It was really lucky that most of it, he had turned over before the typhoon struck," Albert recalls.

Also a jewelry designer the past few years, Albert designed Sanchez's gold pectoral set for diagnon. The patterns is from Albert's Filipiniana jewelry line.

He also designed her diamond earrings on gold mounting. Albert turned the vintage

HOW TO 11

THE GROOM walks with mother Judy Araneta Rosas.

SMILE. Ian and relaxation with pins sworn on every pew

PITOY Moreno

REP. DARLENE Custodio

ANA Dy-Villa Singson

STO. DOMINGO Church courtyard decorated for the snacks reception after the rites. Photos on this page taken with Samsung ST50 camera.

US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney and Linda Lewis

BETSY Westenberg Brias

CHING Mendiola, matron of honor Ding Polanco, principal sponsors Rosa Rosal and Chesha Lazaro

GRETCHEN Barretto and Tonyboy Cojuangco

CRISTALLE Monasterio and Alan Germain

MARGIE Hontiveros and Pe Rosero

ELIZA Amoncio

VICKY Zubiri

AURORA GO with daughter Nina and granddaughter Nicole

RIA AND Gov Ojeda

GLORIA Garcia and Eugenio Lopez III

ERIC and Bing Monsioda

KENNETH and Jaclyn Go

NICOLE Thorpe and Margarita Forés

WINSTON Argon and Vina Gordolacsina

PAOLO and Mylen Pineda

MARGIE Juico and son Joseph

BELLE and Henette Concepcion

NINA GO and Rosanna Force

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LOOK with a relative CATCH of the day CITY color

SWIMMING jacket STYLE statement HOODED and all covered up

A casual brand reinvented

By Ana T. Vergara

Almost every look was anchored on Penshoppe's Re-Cut denim pants

APART FROM GIVING CORPORate and individuals an ideal venue to advance emerging trends, the recently concluded Philippine Fashion Week at SM Convention Center became a perfect opportunity for some brands to officially announce their supposed reinvention as they try to increase market share.

In its bid to cater to a broader clientele, Penshoppe went for quality over quantity by sweating it losing an exclusive four-course dinner for a select group of guests, including some of the country's leading lifestyle and entertainment journalists.

Guests helped themselves to mushroom ravioli, pan-roasted white fish, braised and grilled US Angus short ribs and creamy fruit chards whipped up by chef Margarita Forés.

In between sips of red and white wine, they were treated to a series of mini-fashion shows featuring capsule collections of what the brand's in-house designers dreamed as four major trends in 2010: Ethnic, Country, Gothic and Futuristic.

Milestone

As far as mass-market brands were concerned, the dartmus extravaganza such an exclusive event in one of SMX's upscale function rooms, complete with two long tables and floor-to-ceiling curtains, seemed as a high-retail (and certainly went against conventional wisdom).

But by doing so, organizers, led by Bernice Liu, president and CEO of Golden ABC Inc., hoped to better communicate a milestone in the Cebu-born company's 23-year history.

Dubbed as "Refashion," the event signaled Penshoppe's bid to go beyond its wholesome image and cover market of perky teenagers by catering as well to young, even middle-aged adults through a bigger, more polished product line.

"Designs and workmanship have greatly improved for quite some time now," said Alex Mendoza, brand director of Penshoppe. "It's not that people can't yet aware of it. We won't be abandoning our teen market. We're simply expanding it to include people who belong to older age brackets."

The youth market might have been Penshoppe's core strength, but as people behind it evolved, they were being held back by the brand's own spunky clean image and self-imposed barriers.

"In retailing," said Mendoza, "the problem starts when you inadvertently set your own barriers."

Layering

Taking their cue perhaps from major global brands such as Gap, Abercrombie & Fitch and Topshop, the brand's stylists reserved is a great deal of layering and accessorizing using items such as scarves, bandanas, navy-armed pullover belts, boxy stockings, pinafores, wigs, flower-lined gloves, ski hats, fanny packs and even a black lace parasol.

The lines were blurred between what items were available at Penshoppe and what were reserved elsewhere. As if to herald the grunge look's return, collared shirts in plaids, checks and gingham dominated a particular segment of the four-part show.

Cropped denim and bomber jackets, paired either with hooded shirts or classic scarves too, made quite an impact, as did boyfriend-fit cardigans and patchwork vests.

The collection also presented its share of canvas jersey sundresses in the form of scoop-necked blouses, belted and draped tunics and light cardigans for women. Almost every look was anchored on the Penshoppe's Re-Cut denim pants.

"This Re-Cut campaign several months back gave people a glimpse of where Penshoppe was headed," said Mendoza. "It specifically targets an older, broader market."

Re-entering the store the brand had to let go of certain design elements that have made it too identified with teenagers. However, one thing the company vowed to keep is Penshoppe's name.

"If Gap and Abercrombie & Fitch can be by everybody, then why can't Penshoppe? We know the brand connects youth, but it's a strong name and we're maintaining it," said Mendoza.

LEVERED sweaters

BLACK and white for layering COTTON jersey gets Gothic

HINTS of metallic

BEA SOHALHO

ANDREW Sun

LOOK beauty editor and Inquirer Lifestyle columnist Rudy Mha

VICTOR Ross

ONE OF two long tables at Penshoppe's exclusive dinner show

EH FOUNDER Huey Ty

Funky, fabulous bags

KEEPING HIS NOW COLLECtion of mod bags.

UPSIDE Dick reigns over all things young, funky and fabulously functional, thanks to a bold new color palette, funtastic new prints and strong shapes.

In paper pink, the roomy Lipstick is stylish enough to carry shopping finds and carry to the club.

Be in the spotlight with the edgy Limit in white one.

Walk scrupulously soft suede and pebbled patent Mola, slip-stilt a slight touch of sweetness to daily life.

The multifunctional Now Arlene and Arlene L Crossbody with mirror) in multi shadow or dark blue will help to organize any fashionista's day.

Finish with the New Brix in multi dark.

The new City collection in luminous fabrics for all-fit muffles.

Take the Brix in argyle-ane or blue blue to the office, then go on a road trip with this roomy shoulder bag.

The quilt dot fabric, a subtle nod to the current sculptural, natural fabric trends, makes Daves a sleek shopping savior.

Bigbags's cool new collections are now available at the Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, SM City North EDSA/The Block, Robinson's Place Manila, SM City Pampanga, SM City Cebu, Iloilo and Davao.

UGOCHI MOLA LIMIT

How to do a wedding . . .

From page F1

ANDREW Sun

CHIT Guerrero

JOJI Dingcong and Susan Reyes

GIRLIE Badis., Berbina Clemente and son

PETE and Margie Palis

MINE dolete Herman and Lou Mendoza

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Hermès' latest collection conjures 'Wimbledon-on-the-Seine'

You'd have to look beyond color to concentrate on the mastery of the cut, the luxury of the cloth

By José Conrado Benaug
Contributor

PARIS, FRANCE—THE PARIS Spring-Summer 2010 women's fashion collections recently concluded with the Hermès show, bringing back a return to sense and sensibility.

House designer Jean-Paul Gaultier took his inspiration from iconic outfits of the 1920s and '30s, creating an outdoorsy collection that gave a much-needed breath of fresh air after a week of other shows featuring cinematic and dressy ensembles that were not always the easiest to wear.

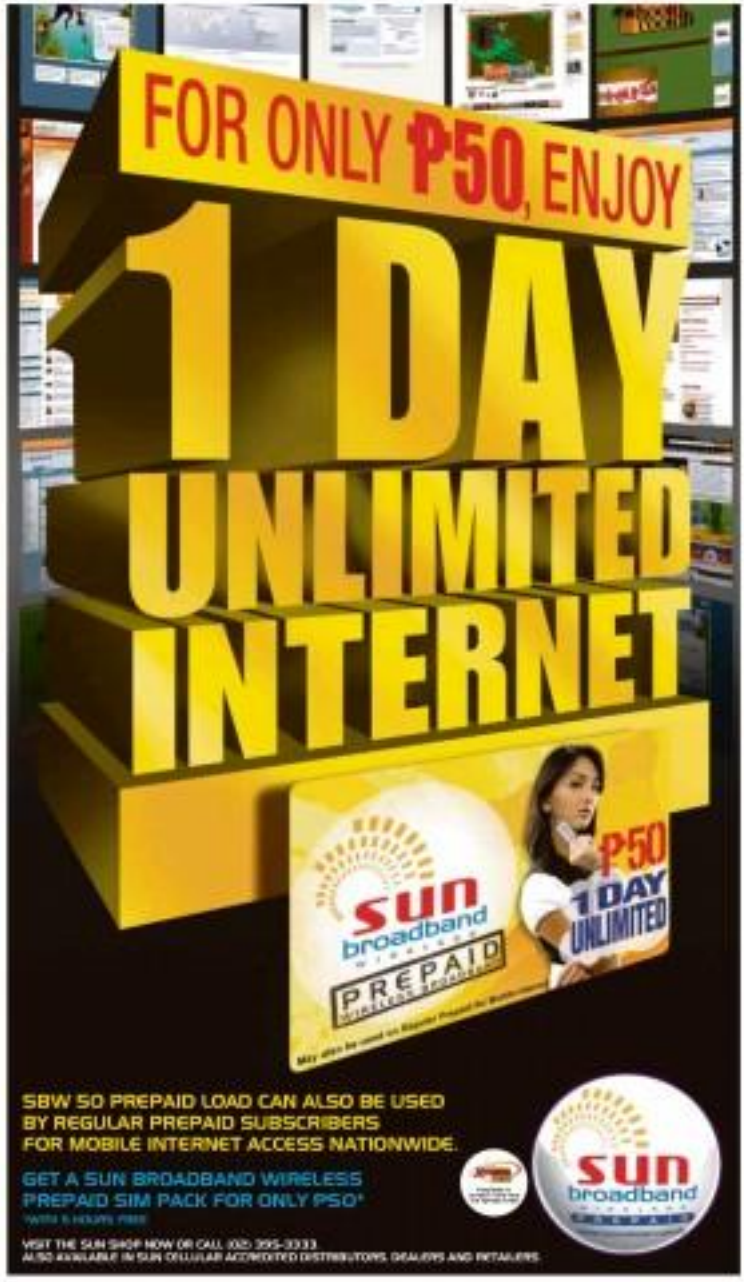
In tune with the times, he presented his collection in a wedding chez neighborhood far from the blatant ostentation on the rue Boy-du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, in a roofed warehouse converted for the occasion into a very long tennis court.

On the verge in the middle of this make-believe Wimbledon-on-the-Seine, the 45 models paraded variations of the sporty look, while spectators sat on white outdoor in grass-covered bleachers, sipping champagne and taking in the sense of freshness all around.

Drop-dead glamor

The genius of Gaultier's talent is that he explores every possibility of one single

NEWS: G2



Defying the tough times with '80s-tinged glam

'It's our holiday collection, so there are lots of beadwork and shine,' says SM house designer Anthony Nocom

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

AMID NEWS OF IMPENDING calamities, plagues and unstable prices, the local fashion industry took a defiant stance at this year's Philippine Fashion Week.

The mood was celebratory and escapist, disco-hopping as if it were the era of Lovin' V, Euphoria, Bars and Mars. Runways were awash in black outfits, high glam and body-skimming pieces evocative of '80s fashion, the era of excess.

Meanwhile, the big brands invested on big-budget productions to woo their market. The audience was dressed to the nines, particularly younger women in thigh-high styles who swooned in swooning silhouettes.

Marketing tack

SM, a partner of Philippine Fashion Week, opened the season with its new marketing tack. SM creative consultant and menswear house designer Anthony Nocom explained, "It's our holiday collection, so there are lots of beadwork and shine. We're approaching the store and the merchandise. SM has premier stores in Illiterio Manila where the quality is more upscale yet affordable to customers who can't afford the high-end, imported labels. Our market is aspirational."

A segment of the show was devoted to the teen market, a significant market for SM, which featured updated versions of the prep-set look (blazers, cardigans, plaids) streamed in Urban European, along with contemporary styling of the uniform blue jeans with brighter tops.

The '80s punk (spikes, faux leather, hard-wave and studs) was toned down and styled as mid-glam, muted with sequins, sweater graphic prints and hoods. The girls had their rendition of the Little Black Dress.

SM also presented a diversity of labels. The corporate lines featured classic prototype suits for men, padded suits for women, tweed suits and mink-fed chics, reminiscent of the '80s movie on working women, "9 to 5."

The imported lines offered sexier and

SIZZLE! Guapo's red shimmering maxi dress with black bodysuit is accentuated with a knitted black sequined scarf and a red and black ensemble underneath

SYMMETRICAL: Guapo's asymmetrical dress with crystal-and-pearl straps; Bernardito Anthony Nocom's shiny fashion-inspired suit (left) and another SM menswear label suit with American prep sportiness.

JAZZ: Bacuzzi's silver mini suit, '80s-inspired ruched bustier dress by imported SM label Studio 5, Ellen Ocampo's asymmetrical dress with metallic feathers

more provocative silhouettes, from fashion-forward to sexy. Pilates, weight training or liposuction, the more chic introduced a dressy sweat silhouette...namely bright-colored shirts and cropped pants for the men, sheer sultana embellished with stones for women and soft draped skirts.

To complement the collections, SM launched a customized Pantene line—platinum silkiest that were either shampoo, hair-set, molded or ritual in four animal skin, to customized short Betty dresses and patterned leggings.

Designers' collections

The pieces de resistance were designers' collections, pioneers of boutique lingerie which, 25 years ago, celebrated Filipino couture. Through lessons for tailored styles, Mike dela Rosa created a classic, draped sarapina gown. Rosana's suits under lessons were shiny and slim to cut.

Ellen Ocampo went for texture in his spaghetti-strapped black dresses were adorned with fringes, tassels feathers and cutwork lace. for contrast, there were dresses in aquamarine and gold, embellished with paillettes and dainty beadwork.

"In the last Coast collection, it was shine, shine, shine!" declared Ocampo.

RTW pioneer Cesar Guapo was still young at heart. He imbued his signature bodysuit with shorter proportions. Black Lurex were combined with tweeds, gold and purple. There were lots of contrasts such as asymmetric necklines and numbers collars, and stretched knits playing against the shine of polyester charmeuse.

For a sculptural effect, Guapo played with

MIKE dela Rosa's strapless goddess gown

rather than toys as women could show off their bodies sculpted by yoga, Pilates, weight training or liposuction. The more chic introduced a dressy sweat silhouettes...namely bright-colored shirts and cropped pants for the men, sheer sultana embellished with stones for women and soft draped skirts.

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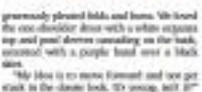
MIKE dela Rosa's strapless goddess gown



gracefully pleated folds, and hems. We loved the one-shoulder dress with a white organza top and pouf sleeves cascading on the back, accented with a purple band over a black skirt.

"My idea is to move forward and not get stuck in the classic look. It's young, hot it!" says Guapo of his pieces, with his trademark chuckle.

These shoes are still kicking after all these years

SM's Parisian line is reborn and rebooted

By Jojo Ramirez
Contributor

SM PARISIAN, SHOEMART'S ICONIC HOUSE SHOE brand, had a grand relaunch recently at the 2009 Philippine Fashion Week.

The relaunch was simultaneous with the SM Department Store's gala show for Fashion Week 2009, highlighting the Holiday collection that ranged from streetwear and cocktail outfits to resort wear and office wear.

SM revealed the new look of its Parisian shoe line at the show's finale. Gladiators and platform designs had eye-catching details such as studs and grommets in strappy styles. Booties came in rich colors like gray, mocha, plum, choco brown and royal blue, with cutouts, lace-up designs or sexy peep-toes.

According to Jolene Lim, assistant division manager for shoes, "The new line was responsive to the Parisian, being SM's house brand since its inception, and we want to retain our edge to our last share by selling shoes that are of high quality and great style."

Meanwhile, Jessica Abando, merchandising manager for ladies shoes, added, "SM, having the most number of stores nationwide, has the promise to help women be up-to-date with global fashion looks through its Parisian shoes. We decided to up the ante, not just with pricing...yes, we still have the P500 entry-level fashion shoes—but with the newer models now priced comparably at P999 upward to be able to compete with fashionable brands outside our department stores."

PARISIAN shines on the runway at Philippine Fashion Week

SUEDE-colored lace-up booties, available in gray and mocha; python-banded heels, available in tan, white, red and black

SUEDE-colored lace-up booties, available in gray and mocha; python-banded heels, available in tan, white, red and black

SUEDE-colored lace-up booties, available in gray and mocha; python-banded heels, available in tan, white, red and black

Hermès' latest collection conjures . . .

From page B1

dresses. From the deceivingly simple pleated white shift that Evi Herlapsiwa wore to open the show, to the deep-cleft plunge of her navy-blue long dress at the finale, an entire decision of graduated chic codes was apparent behind every ensemble.

You didn't see just a pleated dress—there was another layer for romance. In fact, the pleats simply peeked from underneath a sophisticatedly belted sleeveless tube top, complemented by a perfectly tailored jacket. And it wasn't just a long, navy dress, either. This dress was in translucent silk chiffon, just a wee bit voluptuous to highlight a considerable underarm, on like a batwing cape.

"You'd have to look very closely to figure out how they were all cut and fastened together. What you got was not limited to what you see.

Signature designs included the wide, billowing slacks in silk jersey often worn with cosmopolitan silk chiffon cardigans that reached down to the ankles; see-through blouses that revealed chevron tops; long wrap-around skirts; sports inspired parka and flowing, white-and-navy outfits closely intended for a summer cruise on a yacht; and tight-fitting denim bermudas which would look just right on any beach.

And for cool evenings, cotton cardigans. There was a lot of layering, interweaving between transparent chiffons and opaque pieces, many of them worn off one shoulder. Halter tops kept popping up everywhere.

Pleats, please

Pleats were a major leitmotif. Off—worn as skirts of varying lengths from very short to ankle-length, sometimes uneven, often times roomy, and on the outer pants, as well. But the pleats looked truly coordinated on the mid-calf Bermuda shorts here—leather. The pleated trimmings and embellishments in the dresses and lightest leather you could imagine were probably the most photographed during the show.

Shoes were extremely high-heeled, with models hobbling on stilted footsteps toward the rabbits, and sometimes even with soles in contrasting colors. Hairstyles were all wispy accessories and straight, kept in place by a sweatband.

There were hardly any pants in the collection. The very few ones that dared to appear were relegated to an inner visibility, like the little halter tops underneath the jackets. Rather, this was a collection of solids, almost only—white, beige, brown, mustard, pearl gray, Bordeaux, navy, black.

Again, you would have to look beyond color to see some sort of distinction of the cut, the luxury of the cloth. And the bags that accompanied every outfit—new versions of the Birkin, and many more accessorizing ones never seen before.

Distinguished history

Hermès is proud of its saddle origins that go as far back as 1837. It's a long, distinguished history that saw it graduate and excellently moving into the luxury leather and fashion business. The first half of 2007 brought in worldwide sales of 875 million euros, the listed company reports said today.

Its easily identifiable silk scarves are almost bestsellers, as are clothing, leather goods, perfumes, watches, silverware and tableware. Of all the bags, the most luxurious, without doubt, the Birkin, named after English actress Jane Birkin, who lives in Paris and is said to have collaborated on the bag's design.

Another joined Hermès in 2003, bringing with him his sometimes-irreverent if unquestion while respecting the conservative traditions of the house. He continues to design works for ready-to-wear collection, as well as ready-to-wear for women and men.

With two of the models playing a mock Asian match during the show, the only thing that went wrong was the unsprung tennis ball that graced the head of one of the spectators. The audience gasped, then wowed and applauded as Gaultier stepped out onto the ramp to nod another of his very well-liked shows.

CRUISE-READY Long, transparent dresses from Hermès Spring/Summer 2008

SPORTSWEAR, ACCORDING TO GAULTIER. Deceptively simple pleated skirts, billowing slacks, midriff tops, tailored jackets and long, flowing dresses from Hermès Spring/Summer 2008

Samsung Unveils Corby

First Full-touch Mobile designed for Youth Market

Edgar Tan of Metro Express and Samsung dealer for Handheld phones Fe Varilla

Edwin Tan of Metro Express and Charles Choi VP for Samsung handheld phones

(L-R) Eric Chua, Kevin Yeow, Stephanie Chua and Melvon Gabriel

Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. a leading mobile phone provider, recently launched the Samsung Corby (model: S3650), a stylish phone designed to support the digitally connected lifestyles of today's young mobile users.

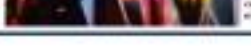
The new Corby is the first in a new range of full-touch mobiles from Samsung that put users at the centre of the social media revolution. The device is designed for the younger generations of mobile users who value touch-screen technology, ergonomic design and a full range of social networking capabilities.

Unveiled recently at the launch of the newest Samsung Experience Store at the SM North EDSA Annex featuring the Samsung Corby was Samsung's VP for Mobile Promos, Mr. Charles Choi, Corporate Marketing Head Gabie Gibraga, Head for Samsung Mobile Promos Fe Varilla and from Metro Express John Sy, Edwin Tan, Edgar Tan and Edward Tan.

Also spotted at the launch were event host DJ Rizon, Magic 89.9 radio jock Jessica Mendoza, Joi Reyes and Mico Salva of the Women Blue Eagles. Joshua Webb and Simon Atkins from the De La Salle Green Archers, Samsung executives Andrew Limpoco, Coco Domingo, Raine Javellana, Melano Gabriel, Patrick Mesmin-ran, Kitty Bautista, Annie Yniguez and the overall event host, Ms. Stephanie Chua.

Samsung Corby offers instant and easy access to social network sites like Facebook, Twitter and MySpace so users can share and connect through the touch-screen interface. The Corby boasts a 2.8 inch TFT touch screen and can be used as an MP3 player, video playback device, or even a digital camera thanks to the 2 mega pixel camera with auto-detection.

The Samsung Corby is available for both its body-design and colors - which marks a significant break from the way full-touch phones are usually designed. It is available in both color options such as Jamaican Yellow, Cupid Pink, Minimal White, and Fresh-extract Orange at Php 7,999 in all Samsung Mobile Phone Shops nationwide.



Carlo Tuliao doing the rubber-leg crowd

John Sy of Metro Express, Charles Choi VP for Samsung handheld phones and Edward Tan of Metro Express

Joshua Webb, Mico Salva, Samsung Marketing Director Simon Gibraga, Samsung Marketing Communications Manager for IT & HHP Coco Domingo, Magic 89.9 DJ Jessica Mendoza, Simon Atkins and Joi Reyes

DJ Mico and Joi Reyes entertaining the audience

Models posing to the beat of the music

Lianlang

Tessa's Home For Christmas

House Life host and celebrity interior designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes presents Our Home's new Christmas collection done in sophisticated color palettes

Feel the golden glow of Christmas with this table top arrangement with garlands, pine cones, and candles (sold individually)

Like most of us, celebrity host and interior designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes' idea of a perfect Christmas is a celebration with friends and family. Hard it is her though to inject her own fun design elements to give her home a modern, sophisticated holiday feel.

In her show House Life, which is shown every Saturday at QTV at 8:00 PM, she played with the colors of Christmas as she put together a stylish home for the holidays with pieces from Our Home.

Whether you're in the mood for a white Christmas, want to mix it the traditional red and green way, or want to add drama with black and white touches, Tessa shows us how using décor from Our Home, the lifestyle store where one can get great designs at great prices.

Our Home stores are located at SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, The Block at SM City North EDSA, V-Mall, SM City San Lazaro and the SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, those are located at the SM Supermalls in Bacoor, Pampanga, Lucena, Baguio, Marilao, Clark, Iloilo, Rosario, Batangas, and Dasmariñas in Luzon; as well as Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and the North Wing of SM City Cebu.

Add modern elegance to your holiday setting by dressing up your Christmas tree with gold décor

"Tis the season to be chic, and the combination of black and white makes a dramatic Christmas setup

These (framed abstract) paintings are essential accents in a living room with a red and white color scheme

Dress a stylish holiday gathering with a clear vase with decorative Christmas balls (sold individually) as accent

www.ourhome.ph

Make a snowy wide shot red and white color scheme. Red sofas are accented beautifully with contemporary accessories like an abstract painting on the wall, as well as red and white vases and accent pillows

LIVING Stars

Like Bueno G. Velarde

Sean Penn, journalist

HAVANA—ORGANIZERBRING ACTOR AND POlitical activist Sean Penn arrives in Cuba hoping to interview for revolutionary icon Fidel Castro. Cuban government-controlled television reported Sunday. Penn is said to be writing a story for Vanity Fair magazine. /AFP

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Childhood flashbacks

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jun Gulac Postrales

TV HOST AND COMMERCIAL model Bianca Gonzalez said the recent visit of Living Stars to her Parañaque City home made her relive memories of her happy childhood.

"I remember how my siblings and I used to slide down from the railings of the staircase. The place in the living room reminds me of the afternoons when I threw tantrums because I didn't want to sit with my piano teacher," Bianca said as she referred us to the 600-sq. m., split-level house in BF Homes Executive Village.

THIS will decor is an idea of Bianca's sister Bleu, an interior designer.

Bianca recalled how she fought with her brother Jean Taylor and sister Alexa over the use of the telephone, and also about the time she painted and decorated the doors of the closets that she used to share with Alexa.

Souvenirs

"We have lived in this house since 1998. It's a combination of wood and stone. Nothing has changed here. We have never renovated it," she said. "But recently, my sister, who is an interior designer, spruced up some of the styles.

CHILDHOOD 02

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STA. ROSA — LIPA

1 JENNIFER'S BODY	1 RED CLIFF
2 PATIENT X	2 PATIENT X
3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT	3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
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DASMARINAS — IMUS

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT	1 JENNIFER'S BODY
2 HALLOWEEN 2	2 HALLOWEEN 2
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STARMILLS

1 RED CLIFF	4 PATIENT X
2 PANDORUM	5 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 HALLOWEEN 2	6 THE FINAL DESTINATION

ANGELES — TACLOBAN

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT	1 RED CLIFF
2 PATIENT X	2 PATIENT X
3 HALLOWEEN 2	3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
4 RED CLIFF	

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 RED CLIFF	1 RED CLIFF
2 PATIENT X	2 PATIENT X
3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT	3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
4 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE	4 DOROTHY ROW
5 PANDORUM	5 NOT FORGOTTEN
6 SALAT	6 SALAT

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PAOLO BEDIONE

MY PASTOR, PAOLO

SANDRA BULLOCK on

MEGAN FOX on her

Childhood flashbacks

From page 00

worry."

Most of the knick-knacks in the house were bought by Sharon's parents from their travels. "I love to travel, too, but I don't have the patience to bring home souvenirs. Come to think of it, it's good to have a piece of somewhere in your home," said the host of ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Big Brother."

Framed art pieces in the living area are by her parents' close friends. The large family photo was taken in 2007 when they visited Jean Carlos in San Francisco, where he is based.

The six-seat dining set is one of the oldest pieces in the house, noted Sharon. "It's made of rosewood. We got it from an old shop in Los Baños. We use it only for special occasions, like Christmas. We all like bringing our meals to the bedrooms."

Walk-in closet

Sharon relised: "My sister helped me turn our dad's bedroom into my walk-in closet. She hired a carpenter to make some shelves and cubicles. I have so many things they don't fit in the old closet anymore."

In the middle of the room, Sharon placed what Sharon called a "thinking" table. "I kind of like to sit down and

CHILDHOOD 00

MEMENTOS include old champagne glasses from Italy, papier-mâché elephant masks from Greece and Cuba, the Mother, Iron Spoon wood figurine from Hong Kong.

"SMU House," from Lilmgarve Gallery

BANKA (inherited from brother's old bedroom into a walk-in closet)

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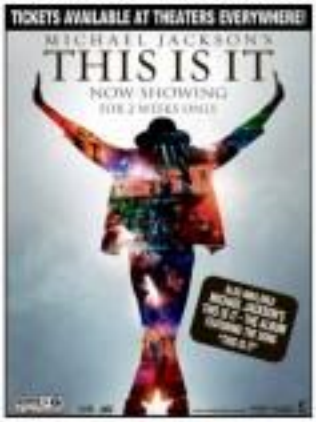
MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
Walter Mart

need a job?

"I like to sit down and take my time, drink coffee, while I choose clothes to wear."



ASHEWOOD dining set brought to NYC Commercial Center, San Pedro

THE GORGEOUS QUEEN dining area displays quiet, classic class.

Childhood flashbacks

From page 94

take my time, drink coffee while I'm choosing clothes to wear to work," Ramon explained.

She said there's hardly anyone in the house now, especially since she and her siblings are all busy with work.

"You hear of houses that are cemetery eg dormido. This house isn't anything like that. It's very simple. It's quiet here most of the time."

LEATHER with snowman's face impaler, from Portugal.

MAHCA shares this bedroom with older sister Alexa.

Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Metro Main Tel: 896-6000(local 440) | Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.net.ph

ACTOR Jamie Kennedy and his girlfriend, actress Jennifer Love Hewitt, at the premiere of the hit show "This Is It" in Los Angeles on Tuesday. AP/A1

PASTA YOU CAN'T RESIST

9 plates

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P150 ONLY

WEDDING WISH
Short biz gals' wish for newlyweds Mia Reese and Ronica Sanchez: Love, friends. "Pa-wish ito, bakse gumawa agad ng baby!" see friend said. Page E-5.

'Himala' in Virginia: Nora Aunor was on time

THE MOVIE WORKERS' WELFARE FOUNdation, Inc. recently honored Maricel Soriano's (1992 film "Himala") efforts to Washington, DC and to Cuenca City, Los Angeles Newsfloat host Atom Araullo told the movie was picked as a landmark for showing in PR-Am communities because it was earlier voted in (2004) Best Asia-Pacific Film of All Time.

Lead star Nora Aunor attended the Virginia screenings. Boo said the actress' drawing power proved unchallenged. "And she was a joy to shoot/direct personified," related Boo. "She traveled to the venues on her own, showed up on time, and even helped [with] the kitchen."

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Stars make sure they will be heard

ANGELICA Panganiban

MARK Bautista

RAMPAGED KIDS TURNED up Wednesday for a special voter registration mounted by the network and the Commission on Elections.

Boy(see) Cruz, Bodjie Cruz, Cara Dyan, Princess Ross, Janel Elizalde, Cris Puno, Paloma, Valerie Concepcion, Erik Santos, Mark Bautista, Angelica Panganiban, Shaina Magdayao, Marvel Rodriguez, Nikki Gil, Ryzhing Dan, Rita Daniela and Heather Orencio appealed to the public to do the same.

"Now, more than ever, we have to make a stand. No one else will do that for us," said Gil, a first-time voter in 2010.

Another first-timer, Bautista Jose, added, "When you vote, make sure your choices will help the country."

The special registration was held at the ABS-CBN main office in Quezon City.

PDWINANG

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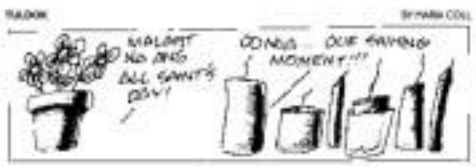


SEEH

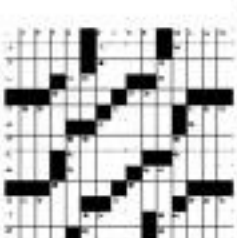
ATOMIC AND WEEDY

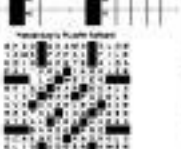
KIKO MACHINE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	2			8	6			
						9	7	1
							5	
	5							9
2								6
3							1	
		2				9	3	
7		6		5				
					1	4		8

Daily Level: ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	5	6	3	4	8	7	2
6	2	3	9	7	8	1	5	4
4	7	8	1	2	5	9	3	6
7	3	1	8	6	2	4	6	9
2	5	4	7	5	9	3	8	1
8	9	6	3	4	1	5	2	7
3	6	2	4	1	6	7	9	5
5	4	7	2	9	3	6	1	8
1	8	9	5	8	7	2	4	3

Up close with 'wild' boys

Front page 24

of Dryden" by Lloyd Alexander. All sorts of stuff.

What was the most fun scene to shoot and what was your least favorite scene?

M. There were a lot of good ones. Long pause] My least favorite were the scenes inside Elly's stomach.

Why?

S. We had to cover him in all this slime. He drooled him, like wolf saliva weighed like 25 pounds...

If you were king for a day what kind of king does would you like to have?

M. I would want a place where I could go out, have a snowball fight in the morning, come back in the house, lie on my bed, read a book or something and sleep.

Would you like to continue acting?

M. I never really thought about acting. It kind of just fell out of the sky and then I found out that acting itself is really fun.

What are you doing next?

M. I'm not working anything currently. I guess the only thing that I am working is probably...

S. Double [laughter].

M. Yes, like one of my favorite hobbies is to make sweets out of PVC mattress foam and chat rape.

E-mail the columnists at [illegible] *Also, visit* [illegible] *and read his blog, "The Nipsha Report," on* http://blogs.inquirer.net/inquirerpost

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Mayonoy (Ryan) runs a barbecue stand across the Red Light Beerhouse. This is where he sees and eventually falls for bar girl Jessel (Gwen). Although Mayonoy is afraid to cross paths with Harry (Jeffrey), Jessel's pimp, he proceeds to come up with an escape plan to "save" her. A black comedy set in a carnivalesque bar. Sexy and funny, yet insightful.
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mtrcb rating R-13

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

Wish for newlyweds: Kids

JAYNES Rep. Bobby Jaynes, and Kara Aquino

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Quiao Punzalan

AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST CHECHE Lazaro wished them a "life-long friendship."

Actor-TV host Jason Montano said they should produce "mainstreaming little Mons and Jessas."

"They are good people," Montano told Inquirer Entertainment shortly after Sen. Mar Roxas and broadcaster Korina Sanidad's wedding ceremony at the Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City on Tuesday.

Montano attended the wedding with his wife Guadalupe Cruz, actor Richard Gutierrez with rumored boyfriend Jodi Sta. Maria, and TV host-comedian Dennis Padilla's date, wife TV-actress Jaclyn Jose. Gutierrez came minutes ahead of his estranged wife, Michele Rabaldo.

"Pwede ba kaya, gumanyan-agad ako ng boyfriend?" Padilla joked, referring Montano's catch for Nestea, 45, and Mar, 52.

Second-running godparents Rod Valera, Robert Jaworski and Jaime Rivera sang with Da Manila Philharmonic Orchestra during Mass.

Spotted in the second row were Bb Gandanghari Lani (with husband Anthony Pangilinan), Gretchen Barretto and Tonyboy Cojuangco, Bea Aquino (with husband Junior Yap and their son), disc jockeyers Lily Monteverde and Willeen Tiong, Broadcasters Pia Hontiveros, Sonny Osmeña Dato, Bernadette Sembrano and Tina Monzon were also among the estimated 2,000 guests.

DENNIS Padilla and Linda Gomez

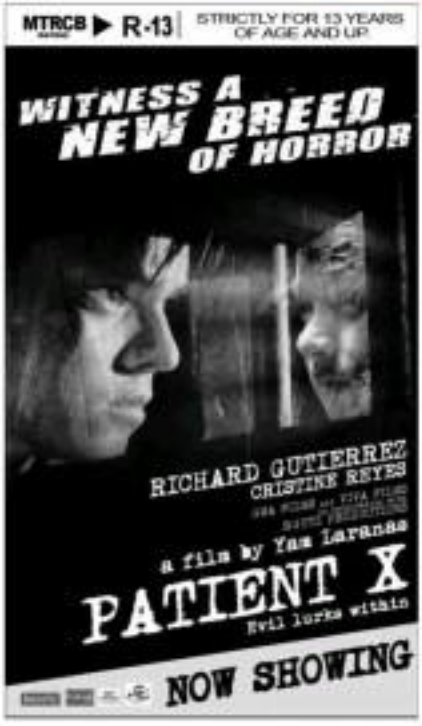
GRETCHEN Barretto and Tonyboy Cojuangco

MARICEL Laxa-Pangilinan and husband Anthony

BASIL Valdez

RICHARD Gomez

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP



NIKK Records is Max in Spike Jonze's "Where The Wild Things Are."

Up close with 'wild' boys

LOS ANGELES—CAN YOU PICture a nine-year-old Swim Picnic?

That's what "Where the Wild Things Are" director Spike Jonze was looking for when he was casting for Max, the principal character in the film adaptation of Maurice Sendak's 1963 classic picture book for children.

Spike had been on the lookout for a year. He was already on location in Australia, two months away from shooting, yet he and his casting director had not found their Max.

"We were kind of looking for a nine-year-old Jesse Pinkman or something you could put on screen and videotape him even speaking, you would know what he was thinking and you'd sense a level of complexity to the performance," said Spike, who would be joined later in this interview by Nim Records...that boy who got the role.

Spike told us that he would have put the search on hold if they didn't find the right boy, but at that last minute, they thought of looking in "smaller cities with art communities." Spike said a friend of his, documentarian Lance Bangs, who lives in Portland, Oregon, sent him a tape of Max, whose only acting experience was the movie "The Brothers Bloom" and a music video for the band Death Cab for Cutie.

"We flew Max down to Los Angeles and auditioned him," Spike recounted. "We decided that we had found the kid."

That kid, now 12 years old, appeared as scheduled, 30 minutes late for the interview. The band between the two was obvious.

Spike has a boyish quality about him that inspires an instant, playful rapport with Mrs. Catherine Keener, who plays Max's mom in the movie, and if Spike: "When you work with him, it induces confidence [...] brings you back to the memory of being a kid—before fear or things that will cause less service."

It was probably the same quality that endeared Spike—who just turned 40—to Maurice Sendak, who

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Rayben U. Segnalen

wrote the story about a boy who ends up on a frozen wasteland by an ominous and a seasonal as their king. Maurice has endorsed Spike's cinematic rendition of his book. He like it too—the film is strange, beautiful and yes, solid.

What do solid things mean to you personally?

Max (Mr. To me, solid things embody different emotions within Max as within anybody that have taken form. They either are like his best friends or are going to bite him on the butt or something.

So there are positive and negative emotions?

NPIKE Jonze and Max Records

M: I think each of the wild things are like a little of each.

Max, just pretend that Spike isn't beside you. What's really wild about Spike?

M: He's really in touch with the child like aspects of himself. He's very silent to do something even if it costs $3 million bucks or something (laughter).

Spike turned to swallow the just to get a second emotion from you for some scenes. Max, tell us how good he got at swallowing. See. How good were you at it, Spike?

Spike (S): Not very good, I think.

M: Yeah, not at all ... I was just so surprised. I thought, come on, do something else. You're going to hum, your tongue really bad. (Turns to Spike) Every time, you did hum your tongue really bad (laughter).

S: We didn't use.

How important is reading to you?

S: I like to read, but Max can read 10 times faster than I can. I finished Max read in the car yesterday. We were driving like half an hour. He probably read a couple of chapters in half an hour. I would have read like two pages...

What was Max reading?

S: The dictionary (laughter). He's reaching his vocabulary.

Max, what are you reading now?

M: I'm in between books right now. I mostly read fantasy/scifi stuff.

Do you have a favorite?

M: I don't really have a favorite. I like the Artemis Books or stuff like those. I just finished "The Chronicles

Light, music, commercial!

UPCOMING BAND Sir Applejohn appears in the new Seaside Mall commercial with the ongoing work of light writers, artists who create images using light (see photo).

'Sex' is back

All six seasons of "Sex and the City" will be aired on HBO, four episodes weekly, starting Wednesday, Nov. 4, 11 p.m. Log on to www.hbosasia.com for a detailed schedule.

'Kalikot' take a bow

ABC-CBO News and Current Affairs' latest kiddie show "Kalikot" features child stars Quarita Celeste, Bugoy Cariño and Jay Castillo. The pilot episode airs tomorrow, before "Showtime."

CLICK!

SHANG CINEPLEX

1. MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT up
2. ASTROBOY PG-13 12:30, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
3. MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT up 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
4. JENNIFER'S BODY R-18 12:00, 2:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
ASTROBOY PG-13 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:05

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